**MONDAY DECEMBER 06 – II WEEK OF ADVENT [C]**

**But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins'' - he said to the man who was paralyzed, "I say to you, rise, pick up your stretcher, and go home." He stood up immediately before them, picked up what he had been lying on, and went home, glorifying God.**

**Faith is true, when it never surrenders, never gives up, never let itself be defeated by the historical circumstances opposite to it. The ill man must be brought before Jesus. He must be brought and one brings him. Now it is said that Jesus sees their faith. Here is the truth that must animate every disciple of Jesus. One believes for vision of faith. Seen faith, trusted faith. It must be seen in words and works. It must be seen in decisions and in operations. One believes for vision of faith. If one faith is not seen, it is sign that it does not exist. One always makes every spiritual reality existing in us visible through words, works, decisions, operations. If the spiritual reality is absent, even its absence is visible. Faith is visible. Non-faith is visible.**

**To know the faith of the universal Church, of the particular Church, of a parish community, even the associated or non-associated faithful, it is enough to open a social and one immediately see if faith is true, false, dead. One sees is faith is only acting, performance, theatre. One sees if faith is artificial, weak, fragile, mannered, for show, only written. One sees if faith is hypocrite, false, liar. One sees if it is only in terms of feeling. One sees if it is forced, obliged, imposed by others. One sees if it is only shown off. One also sees if it is just showed because one wants to convince the others of the goodness of his own path, that one is person of faith. One sees if it is just posted faith that touches neither heart nor soul. One can deceive man, but not the Spirit of God that is in man. The Spirit of the Lord always reveals the heart the truth that is inside and keeps away. Faith is true, if works are true. If life is obedience to the Word. If the obedience to the Word is obedience to the grace. Not only, but also obedience to charisma, to ministries, to each new creation operated in us by sacraments.**

**The scribes and the Pharisees accuse Jesus of blasphemy: "Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who but God alone can forgive sins?" Their foolishness made them blind. Their wickedness made them foolish and ignorant. They do not draw truth from the Holy Scripture, but from their heart that is evil, wicked, of stone. First truth. The prophets have always proclaimed the repentance and the forgiveness. One can edify faith upon the Word of the prophets. Moreover, not only “must” God forgive sins, but also every man must forgive the sin of his own brother. This truth is not by Law of Christ or evangelic Law, but it is by Law of the Scripture, by Law of God. It is always like that when one is wicked in the heart. The mind is unable to think according to truth and justice. When God is not in the heart, one always thinks by flesh. By flesh, one thinks by falsity, never by truth, never by God.**

**Let us read the text of Lk 5,17-26**

**One day as Jesus was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and Jerusalem, and the power of the Lord was with him for healing. And some men brought on a stretcher a man who was paralyzed; they were trying to bring him in and set (him) in his presence. But not finding a way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on the stretcher through the tiles into the middle in front of Jesus. When he saw their faith, he said, "As for you, your sins are forgiven." Then the scribes and Pharisees began to ask themselves, "Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who but God alone can forgive sins?" Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them in reply, "What are you thinking in your hearts? Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins'' - he said to the man who was paralyzed, "I say to you, rise, pick up your stretcher, and go home." He stood up immediately before them, picked up what he had been lying on, and went home, glorifying God. Then astonishment seized them all and they glorified God, and, struck with awe, they said, "We have seen incredible things today."**

**Jesus must deny this most serious accusation of blasphemy. It involves the immediate stoning as consequence. Jesus knows their reasoning of sin and of malice said to them in reply: "What are you thinking in your hearts?” Why do think I blaspheme? Because I said: 'Your sins are forgiven'? Why were you scandalized? Because I proclaimed the forgiveness of sins to this man? Is there perhaps anything opposed to the Law? Have I offended any Prophet? Have I perhaps denied the teaching coming from the Holy Scripture? However, Jesus does not say all these things. They would be vain. Their heart is enclosed to the Law, to Prophets, to Psalms. Instead, Jesus replies giving reason of two historical truths, one invisible and the other visible. The invisible truth is the forgiveness of the sins. The visible truth is the healing of the paralyzed man. Can a man who speaks blasphemes cure a paralyzed man? Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? ‘Your sins are forgiven’ is surely easier. It is a Word acting in the invisible and it is not visibly subject to verification. Instead, saying ‘Rise and walk’ is not only difficult, it is also impossible for any man, unless the Spirit of the Lord does not act with great power upon Him. Without the power of the Holy Spirit, there is no healing.**

**Here is the visible truth that makes the invisible truth true: “But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins'' - he said to the man who was paralyzed, "I say to you, rise, pick up your stretcher, and go home." Now, if the visible truth is fulfilled, the invisible truth is also true. If the visible truth is not fulfilled, even the invisible truth is not fulfilled. If the word of Jesus did not fulfil, it would not have been Word of God, but only miserable, poor, word of man. The Word operating in the invisible always needs the Word operating in the visible. The creation is visible work of the Word. All the Holy History is visible work of the Word. The Gospel is visible work of the Word. As the Lord our God is together Word operating in the invisible and Word operating in the visible, even the Word of each of his servant or ministry must be Word operating in the visible and in the invisible. Visible and invisible one only thing.**

**The Word has just been pronounced. The paralyzed man stands up immediately before them, picks up what he had been lying on, and goes home, glorifying God. Now no one might say that Jesus speaks blasphemies. They might not say it as they have seen. What did they see? The power of his Word, rather the Omnipotence of his Word. No man can say to a paralyzed man what Jesus has said and is fulfilled immediately. Only a man filled with Holy Spirit can say it and it is fulfilled. If the paralyzed man has immediately stood up, then Jesus is true man of God. A true man of God always operates with the Word of God. His is the Word of God when he speaks to the souls, when he speaks to the spirit, when he speaks to the body. One is the Word. Everyone sees the paralyzed man standing up, walking and going back home and they are seized by astonishment. One had never seen such thing in Israel. The prophet Isaiah proclaims that the lame would have leaped like a stag. But it was a prophecy. Instead, today it has become reality. If the prophecy is fulfilled, Jesus is really the Christ of God promised. But if Jesus is the Christ of God, all the other prophecies pronounced about his person will be fulfilled. For what seen, one glorifies the Lord. He is the Author of everything. Those present are aware to be before a true theophany. Their confession attest it: “We have seen incredible things today.” The incredible things are only of the Lord. Miracles, signs, mighty deeds are work of the Lord. May the Mother of Jesus help us. We want to make our faith visible.**