**THURSDAY DECEMBER 09 – II WEEK OF ADVENT [C]**

**All the prophets and the law prophesied up to the time of John. And if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah, the one who is to come.**

**Jesus draws a sharp distinction between Him and John the Baptist, between the Old Testament and the New one. Among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist. He has been filled with the Holy Spirit in the maternal womb. Jesus is speaking of the born of women until the advent of his kingdom. With Jesus, the kingdom of God is established on earth. In the kingdom of heaven, the least is greater than him. In the kingdom of heaven, one becomes adoptive children of the Father. One becomes participant of the divine nature, body of Christ, living temple of the Holy Spirit. The man of the kingdom of heaven becomes temple of the Blessed Trinity. The kingdom of heaven begins with the immaculate conceiving of the Mother of Jesus. But also the least of the kingdom of heaven is Jesus himself. He is not just greater than John. He is the God of John. John himself said that he was not worthy to untie his sandals. Divine greatness.**

**It urges to draw this distinction, especially in this time of ours of theological barbarism, in which no truth is no longer guarded or protected. Today, a hate against truth with the will of destruction is ruling. It urges to draw not only a sharp distinction between the Old and the New Testament, but also an exact separation between the New Testament and all the religious confessions existing in the world. It urges to affirm that Christ alone is God. Before Him, every prophet bows down in adoration and in eternity every founder of religion prostrates himself and recognizes Him as eternal life for man. If all the founders of religion came back on earth, they would only seek Christ. Unfortunately, one does not come back from eternity. This is why man deceive themselves in their falsities and lies. But also for that, they make themselves Gods and are proclaimed Gods, while they are only flesh. Eternal foolishness.**

**Jesus is the only God, the only Saviour and Redeemer, the only eternal life, the only way leading to the Father, the only resurrection, the only light illuminating every man, the only Mediator between the Father and every man. Everything is for Him, in Him, with Him. This most pure eternal and historical truth must be proclaimed, since, believing in it, one enters the true salvation. The one who must proclaim this unique and only truth of the salvation is every disciple of Jesus. This is his mission. What does Jesus want to teach us by saying: From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent are taking it by force? What does Jesus mean with violence? Violence is violence for Jesus, no other thing. One does violence to a plant when it is uprooted from the soil and planted into another one. The one who tears up from the soil both of the Old Testament and from every other religion plants himself in Christ Jesus does violence to himself for the kingdom of heaven. Before John the Baptist came, violence was from disobedience to obedience, from sin to repentance, from injustice to justice. Now, this tear is not enough. History has changed. The kingdom of heaven has come. If the kingdom of heaven has come, one must tear himself up from every religious soil dwelled until present and plant himself in Christ entirely. One does not plant himself with some leaves or with some root, but entirely. The tear must be total.**

**One tears up the tree of our religious life and plants it entirely in Christ Jesus. If this explant does not happen, there is not entering the kingdom of heaven and consequently man remains out of the true salvation, of the true redemption. It is needed to pay careful attention so that one does not come back where one was before. The return is always easy. It is enough that we go out the Word of the Gospel and we are already planted where we were again. Perennial risk! The illusion of being kingdom of heaven while one has come back being kingdom of the prince of the world carries out true carnage for hell and the eternal perdition. In fact, many are those who think of being with God, while they are with Satan. How can we know if we walk with God, with the true God, or we find ourselves to follow Satan on the way of perdition? It is enough to observe our relation with the Word. In the obedience to the Word, one is with God. In the disobedience to the Word, one might be with God, as God alone is in his Word. When one disobeys the Word, Satan is our teacher and we are his disciples, on the way toward the eternal death.**

**Let us read from the text of Mt 11,11-15**

**Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent are taking it by force. All the prophets and the law prophesied up to the time of John. And if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah, the one who is to come. Whoever has ears ought to hear.**

**Why have all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John? Because the Prophets and the Law proclaimed the coming of the Messiah of the Lord. Now the Messiah has come. Law and Prophets have fulfilled themselves. They no longer proclaim. With its fulfilment in history and in eternity, the prophecy is no longer prophecy, but reality. First, it was prophecy, now it is work, word that is fulfilled and consequently it is no longer prophecy. If it were prophecy, one should wait. Jesus says with divine clarity that every promises of God, each of his oath, each oracle of the Father has fulfilled in Him. The Old Testament is no longer prophecy. It is only historical memory of what God promised. Reading the Old Testament today as a prophecy and waiting for its fulfilment is vain waiting. How can one wait for what has been fulfilled? It is barren, vain waiting. One can even wait a billion of years, but with barren outcomes.**

**It is up to every disciple of Jesus to show with his life that the Old Testament is no longer prophecy. Each of his Word is fulfilled in him as it is fulfilled in Christ. The Christian must be the truth of every Word of Jesus. As Jesus is the truth of every Word of the Father, so each of his disciple must be the historical truth of every Word of Jesus. If this does not happen, for him one does not believe that in Jesus every Word of the Father is fulfilled.**

**The prophecy, which one refers to, is of the prophet Malachi. The Lord promises that He would have sent before his coming for the judgement the prophet Elijah to inspire a universal movement of repentance and of return into the Law. “Lo, I will send you Elijah, the prophet, Before the day of the LORD comes, the great and terrible day, To turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the land with doom.” (Mal 3,23-24) If Elijah has come, the Lord is about to come, too. Elijah has come in the person of John the Baptist. The Lord has come in the Person of his Only Begotten Son. He has come to bring the good news of the salvation, redemption, eternal life.**

**It is not enough to receive the Holy Spirit so that He acts in us. It is necessary that we prepare body, soul, spirit in the highest holiness. Every transgression, every vice, every sin, even venial, are a straitjacket for the Spirit. As a man, to whom one has him worn a straitjacket, is strongly limited or entirely neutralized in his actions with the hands, thus is of the Holy Spirit drown in the straitjacket of our sin.**

**In the Gospel, Jesus often uses this phrase: "Whoever has ears to hear ought to hear." What Jesus is revealing is not a thing against the reason of man, not even difficult to catch for his intelligence. Whoever is of good will might understand each of his Word. He might enter the truth of his mystery. If man wants, he can. If he does not want, he never might. Not because he is unable by nature, but because he is hermetically enclosed o the light by evil will. The open eye sees by nature. The closed eye does not see by will. It is able to see, but man keeps it closed. Thus is for the mystery of Christ proclaimed by his Word. If mind is kept open, by nature it can understand many things proclaimed by Jesus the Lord. By nature, it can. May the Virgin Mary introduce us in the mystery.**