**FRIDAY DECEMBER 10 – II WEEK OF ADVENT [C]**

**“The Son of Man came eating and drinking and they said, 'Look, he is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.' But wisdom is vindicated by her works."**

**Jesus reveals what the spiritual condition of his people is. There is an insensible generation, as if it were on morphine, unable of any reaction. Anything happens is the absolute impossibility. To describe the spiritual death of the generation that is before Him, Jesus uses an eloquent image. There are proactive children. Whatever they do is indifferent to the ones who assist and observe. Those people are like a marble block. Whether it rains, the wind blows, the sun is bright, the light shines, they do not change. They are always the same. They do not move. They do not react. When one reaches such insensibility, it is sign that the spirit is decaying.**

**Here is what children say to those who are before them. 'We played the flute for you, but you did not dance, we sang a dirge but you did not mourn.' It is evident that one is on two different planets. One replies to the action with inaction. To doing corresponds the non-doing. One does an action but without the correspondent that should necessarily be. Thus acting the non-doing makes the doing vain. It is of no use that Jesus speaks if one remains deaf to his words.**

**There is a truth that must be said, though. When the Lord speaks to man, he becomes responsible both of the listening and of the non-listening. The Word is a gift God makes to man for his salvation. The non-listening is the refusal of salvation. After the Word has been given, according to the rules of the gift of the Word, one passes from ignorance, from non-knowledge, to the refusal. The refusal is an act of the will, true human act and consequently is responsible before God. This is not a theological deduction. It is true revelation. Whoever believes will be saved. Whoever does not give up will be condemned. After the prophet has referred the Word of the Lord, the nature of man changes. The refusal makes him guilty.**

**When insensibility becomes sloth, then for man the problem of salvation does not even arise. Today not only have we precipitated in this horrible and lethal vice of sloth, every sloth is justified with a false, erroneous, deceitful, liar teaching: today one teaches that there is no need of conversion. The mercy of the Lord will embrace every man and everyone will end up in the eternal kingdom of our Lord. There is no greater lie than this one. Thus saying we declare God false and deceitful. We declare Him unfaithful to each of his Word. We declare that God will embrace everybody, while his Word says totally opposite things. The eternal salvation is for those who – truth revealed by the Holy Spirit – have been faithful until death in the obedience to his Word. Obedience is the gate opening the eternal dwelling of our God and Lord. Whoever is without this key will remain excluded for eternity.**

**Let us read the text of Mt 11,16-19**

**"To what shall I compare this generation? It is like children who sit in marketplaces and call to one another, 'We played the flute for you, but you did not dance, we sang a dirge but you did not mourn.' For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they said, 'He is possessed by a demon.' The Son of Man came eating and drinking and they said, 'Look, he is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.' But wisdom is vindicated by her works."**

**Jesus applies to his generation what he said about the insensibility toward those who played the flute or sang a dirge. John the Baptist has come, austere man, used to the life in the desert. His food were locusts and wild honey. Because of this life deprived of every ease, as he neither ate nor drank at the table of men, this generation says about him that he is a possessed man. With this accusation, one frees himself from every obligation of listening and of conversion.**

**When one declares a person possessed, everything he fulfils and says comes from the demon. Can one convert to Satan? Can one believe in the prince of darkness? One should stay away from whom is possessed. Not only should one not listen to whom is possessed, one must warn every other one so that he does not listen. Thus one is obliged not to follow his teaching. It would be a serious fault to let oneself be formed, instructed, educated by the demon. If John is possessed, even his baptism, the invitation to conversion, the announcement of the Messiah is a devilish deed. But can the conversion to the Word of God be work of Satan? Obviously, something does not add up. When mind lets itself be darkened by sin, it does not even see the easiest, most elementary, fundamental things. Sin deprives man of every rationality and discernment. With sin, Satan takes the government of our spirit.**

**John, austere, severe man with the virtues lived at the highest of their perfection is a possessed. One cannot believe in Satan. The Son of man comes. He lives a “normal, human” life. He is not a man of the desert. What do they say about Him? Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners. The One who eats, drinks, is a friend of tax collectors and of sinners might never be a man of God. The man of God stays away from sinners. He guards himself from having any contact with them. Sinners must stay with sinners, the saints with saints. Since the Son of man breaks this rule, He does not certainly come from God. If He does not come from God, one should not listen to him. Even in this case, there is a sin that is on foundation of their monstrous reasoning. The rules broken by Jesus are not divine, but human rules. They are traditions of men, not Statutes, Law of the heavenly Father.**

**Jesus has not come to give strength or confirmation to the laws of men. He has not come to bring the true Word of his Father on our earth. Now the Word of God is invitation to conversion. It is call to salvation. To call, one must go. To invite, one stays close. One goes among the sinners and one invites to conversion, offering them the forgiveness of God. But the sin of man does not allow to see such easy thing.**

**Now Jesus adds, concluding: “But wisdom is vindicated by her works.” Wisdom produces the work of wisdom. Foolishness produces the work of foolishness. The works reveal the tree. What can Jesus, Wisdom of God on our earth, be recognized by, as righteous? By the works He fulfils. A person who forgives is not unrighteous. He is similar to God. A person inviting to conversion is not unrighteous. This person is similar to God, too. A person freeing the other from illness, from sufferance, creating the true hope in his heart cannot be unrighteous. He is as the heavenly Father, in all similar to Him. Jesus has already said it in his Sermon of the Mountain. The works are what reveal the goodness and the wickedness of a man, the wisdom and the foolishness. All the works of Jesus are fruit of wisdom, love, charity, mercy, light.**

**If the works are according to the heart of God, according to the Law, perfect imitation of the holiness of the Father, certainly he cannot but be a righteous and true person. If he is a righteous and true person, he must be listened. His works are according to God. Moreover, they are from God, as God alone can fulfil the works fulfilled by Jesus the Lord. The statements of the Pharisees and of his generation are words of sin, foolishness, great ignorance. The spirit is ruled by evil.**

**Everyone must pay every attention so that he does not fall in the mortal vice of sloth. The one who falls into this vice will hardly manages to rise. He will reach the suffocation of the truth in injustice and it will be really impossible to come to truth since he is only and always ruled by flesh and by his concupiscence and arrogance. May the Mother of Jesus guard us from such horrendous and sad vice leading to eternal death.**