**SATURDAY DECEMBER 18 – III WEEK OF ADVENT [C]**

**"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."**

**Joseph does not generate Jesus Christ. One must affirm this truth with most pure historical event. No other man enters the generation of Jesus Christ. Man is placed out of this generation. Most pure historical truth. The Evangelist Matthew attests us that the Mother of Jesus Christ, Mary, was betrothed to Joseph. The marriage has not been celebrated yet. Everyone lived in his house. Joseph in his. Mary in hers. When Mary was still in her house, not then, she found herself pregnant through the work of the Holy Spirit. Mary has generated Jesus Christ through exclusively work of the Holy Spirit. The generation of Jesus is in the virginity of Mary.**

**Between Mary and Joseph there has never been any physical knowledge before the marriage. They live in the purest observance of the law of God. The only flesh is done when one is only flesh. Now it is revealed that Joseph is a person who wants to respect himself and lives everything according to the Law of the Lord. He does not want to make the body of Mary, that had belonged to others, as his body. He wants a body all for himself. God wants that the body of a man is of one only woman and the body of a woman is of one only man. Other forms do not belong to God. Other forms are of man, but against the eternal will of the Creator and Lord of man.**

**Even in thinking of divorcing Mary quietly, he is acting in the respect of the most pure Law of the Lord. Being already pregnant, Mary cannot belong to him by eternal will of her Creator. This truth lives in Joseph. It is not a matter of human pride. The righteous man is righteous for he lives all things by the Law of the Lord. If he lived something by his human pride, Joseph would not be righteous. Justice is always remaining in the divine Law. Another truth manifested by Joseph: if he had divorced the Virgin Mary quietly, she would surely have been stoned. He does not want to do evil to Mary. Not to harm her there is one only way: the quiet divorce.**

**What the Evangelist Matthew has revealed us of Joseph by now is his perfect, full non-involvement in the conceiving of Mary. It is also the perfect of his justice, measured according to the Law of God, coming from his Divine Heart. Manifested these two truths, his God and Lord enters the history of Joseph, sending an Angel to him. With this messenger, God takes the full ruling of the history of Joseph. Nothing will have to be by his will. The words of the Angel must be meditated: "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her.” The Angel reassures Joseph: Mary knows no man.**

**What is generated in Her is true work of the Spirit of the Lord. Mary is virgin. She is virgin and mother together. He is asked not to fear to take Her as his wife. Mary is of God and She will have to be his wife, too. Joseph is called to pass from a justice of obedience to the written Law or to the wisdom that is in his heart, to a justice of obedience to the manifestation of a particular, special, personal plan of God about him. God asks Joseph to make a further step into the relation with his God. He must give God his life, so that God may give a new vocation, mission, ministry. It is a fundamental moment for Joseph and the entire humanity.**

**Let us read the text of Mt 1,18-24**

**Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means "God is with us." When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.**

**The Virgin Mary, that Joseph will have to take as his wife according to the command of God annulling that of the origin for him, will give birth to a son. Joseph will have to call him Jesus. Giving the name, Joseph receives him as his son. It is not just a matter of a judicial act. It is true adoration in spirit, in heart, in soul, in mind. Mary conceives Jesus in the body through the work of the Spirit. Joseph conceives Jesus in the heart through the work of the Spirit. One can think of a similitude between the spiritual generation of Joseph to the spiritual generation of God, through the work of the Holy Spirit. For the Spirit, God makes us participant of his divine nature. We are true children of God by adoration.**

**Who is Jesus? The one who will save his people from their sin. What are the sins of the people? The sin of humanity is only one: idolatry. Idolatry becomes anthropo-latry. Every immorality arises from idolatry. Christ Jesus comes to bring back every man to his true God, making him, through the work of the Holy Spirit, his true son of adoption. The adoption will occur in Christ, for Christ, with Christ. Man will come back to the true God according to his true ministry. The forgiveness of the sins is not a judicial cancellation of the fault and of the punishment, it is instead true new creation. One proclaims the God of Jesus Christ, one preaches the Christ of God, the Holy Spirit touches the heart, it pierces from inside.**

**The heart touched by the Holy Spirit repents, is freed from the generation of idolaters, lets itself be baptised, sins are forgiven, he is born as new creature, true son of adoption of the Father, true body of Christ. With the abandonment of idolatry, the promise made by God to Abraham is fulfilled. In your offspring, all the nations of earth will be blessed. The prophecy made to David is fulfilled too. Man is moved into the kingdom of Christ Jesus. It is of no use to let the sins be forgiven as a legal or judicial act, if then one does not live as true kingdom of God, in the body of Christ, to enjoy his blessing. The Christian is the one who does not want to know the sin.**

**Emmanuel, God is with us, is not only the name of the son who will be born from the Virgin Mary. The name is his own essence, nature, life. He is truly, substantially, really the God in us. He is the God who made himself us. He made himself us, one of us, assuming the flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary through the work of the Holy Spirit. In Mary, there is no virginal labor by “self-fecundation.” In Her, there is the Word of life who made himself flesh. In Her, there is the Only Begotten Son of the Father who made himself flesh and has come to dwell among us. For this divine and eternal reason, Jesus is Jesus and all the others are the others. The difference is of divine substance. Jesus is the eternal Son of God.**

**The Angel of the Lord speaks to Joseph in a dream, without waking him up. When Joseph awakes, he does as the Angel commanded him and takes his wife with him. Joseph replies with immediate obedience to the command of the Lord. When the Lord gives a command, He also gives the Holy Spirit so that the command shall be lived according to his divine will, in every moment of obedience. Without the Spirit, no order might be lived. When man does not obey to the received order in the respect of the divine will, it is sign that he separated from the Spirit. In the obedience to the Lord, the Holy Spirit takes man and turns him into his instrument. If man goes out from obedience by temptation, he also goes out from the Spirit. He might never support him. He is no longer true instrument. Mother of God, make us of most pure faith in your mystery.**