**19 DECEMBER IV SUNDAY OF ADVENT [C]**

**“For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."**

**Immediately after the incarnation of the Word of God in her womb, Mary sets out and travels to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah. From the Galilee, Mary goes to Judea. The place where Mary goes is not mentioned. We know that it is a hill country of Judea. Being Zechariah a priest, he surely lives in a town assigned to the sons of Levi. She sets out in haste, as moved by the Holy Spirit. The Spirit moves Her and She moves. In Mary, there are no human reason that move Her. The reasons are of the Spirit. If they are of the Spirit, these are supernatural reasons. Not even Mary knows why she has to go to that region. The Holy Spirit alone knows it.**

**Mary is sent by the Holy Spirit to the house of Zechariah and Elizabeth. We do not still know the reason, though. However, we will know it soon. The Holy Spirit will not reveal it in a direct but in an indirect way, through the events. Mary enters the house of Zechariah. She greets Elizabeth. For the men of all earth the greeting is only an act of courtesy, a gesture of coexistence. It shows and reveals closeness, brotherhood, presence, love, respect. Being Mary filled with grace, full of God, nothing in Her remains in the pure human economy. With Her, one passes from the natural, human economy to the supernatural, divine economy, economy of Holy Spirit.**

**The supernaturalness is immediately revealed. The breath of the Virgin Mary, whether it is sound, word of her mouth, is filled with Holy Spirit. Rather, it is the means through which the Holy Spirit reaches the heart of Elizabeth from the heart of Mary. This truth is immediately confirmed. “When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb.” The word of the Angel said to Zechariah is fulfilled: “He will be filled with the holy Spirit even from his mother's womb.” Not only is the infant filled with Holy Spirit. Elizabeth, too, is filled. The Lord invests her with his Spirit of prophecy and of knowledge. Everything happens since the breath of the Mother of God is the means of the Spirit of the Lord. Why is the breath of the Christian not the means of the Holy Spirit? Yet, the Christian receives the Holy Spirit in each sacrament he celebrates. He receives it according to the nature of the sacrament received. It is not enough to receive the Spirit to be in Him.**

**One is in the Holy Spirit if one obeys the Spirit, if one dwells in Him, if one lets himself be moved, led, enlightened, fortified, advised by Him. The more one is in the Spirit, the more one grows in Him and the more our breath will be the means of the Holy Spirit. Man is like wood. If wood is on fire, it turns into flame, in warmth, in fire. If he remains out of the fire, it remains wood. It will never become flame, warmth, fire. Thus is for man. Rather, thus is for the Christian. If the Christian is in the Holy Spirit, if it grows in the Holy Spirit, if it is true temple of the Holy Spirit, even his breath becomes the means bearing the Spirit and pouring it out in many hearts. If it is out of the Spirit, his breath is breath and nothing more. Today, the Christian are separated from the Spirit, as they are separated from the Gospel, from the Word of Christ Jesus. Being without the Spirit, for them there is no longer the gift of the Spirit to the hearts and these remain in their obscurity of nature. The problem of the non-openness to faith by the world is not ascribable to the world. The Christians whose breath, whose word is not means of the Holy Spirit, are the responsible ones. The Christian should come back into the Spirit and the world will be opened to faith.**

**Elizabeth is filled with the Spirit of prophecy, of knowledge, of vision of the mysterious and hidden things. She sees Mary with the eyes of the Spirit and says: "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.” Mary is proclaimed blessed among the women, as She is seen as true Mother of the Messiah. The fruit of her womb is blessed, as He is the Messiah of God. Before Elizabeth, there is the Messiah and his Mother. This is the great mystery seen. Yet, the eyes of flesh have seen nothing. No sign of the maternity was still visible on the body of Mary. Elizabeth was unaware of all things. No one else knew it.**

**Let us read the text of Lk 1,39-45**

**During those days Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."**

**Elizabeth does not stop at the Old Scripture. It is as if she had been present to the announcement of the Angel and had listened to all the words uttered by the heavenly Messenger. Mary is the Mother of her Lord, She is the Mother of her God. Elizabeth makes the same confession of David in the Psalm 110: The Lord says to my lord: “Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.” The Lord is God. The Lord is the Son of David. God the Lord says to the Lord that is the Son of David, to his Messiah, to sit at his right hand. The Infant Mary is carrying in her womb is the Lord of Elizabeth. The Lord of Elizabeth is only God. No one else is the Lord. Jesus is the Lord.**

**When has the gift of the Spirit been fulfilled in Elizabeth? At the moment of the greeting of Mary has reached her ears. It is at that moment that she is filled with the Holy Spirit and the infant leaped in her womb. We must all convince ourselves of this. Either our breath becomes breath of Holy Spirit, means of the Spirit, or between us and the world there will be only our humanity to establish a relation. But our humanity is of earth. The mystery is of heaven. If the Holy Spirit does not live and dwell in us, there might never be communion with the heavenly mystery. One communicates the heavenly mystery through human way. We are in the heavenly mystery. The Spirit draws the mystery from us.**

**Only drawing it from our mystery, one might communicate it to the world. If in us there is no mystery and He himself does not dwell, there will always be relation of flesh with flesh. Never gift of the Holy Spirit bearer of the heavenly mystery. The failing of the Christian mission is the sign and the seal of our leaving the mystery of Christ Jesus, in whom there is the mystery of the Father and of the Holy Spirit, of the Mother of God and of the Church, of heaven and of earth, of life and of death. When we leave the mystery of Christ Jesus or we do not fulfil it in our flesh, the Holy Spirit cannot draw it from us to give it to hearts. What does Elizabeth see? The mystery of God in Mary. But she also sees the mystery of Mary in God and in Christ. Elizabeth does not proclaim another mystery. The Holy Spirit has let her see the mystery that is Mary, and it is in Mary and she proclaims, in the Holy Spirit, what she has seen and the fruits operated in her.**

**The mystery could be fulfilled in Mary for her faith. “Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." What is faith? Handing one’s own life over to the Word of God. One reads and one listens to the Word. One reads the Word of God in the Scripture in the Holy Spirit, in the community of faithful, within the Church. To the Word read in the Holy Spirit, one gives the consent of our life in the Holy Spirit. One chooses it as our unique Law. But one also listens to the Word by announcement. One listens as it is announced by the ones the Lord has designed to this ministry and one listens even because it is announced by heavenly messengers and by the prophets sent by Him, too. The Word is a gift as the Eucharist is a gift and the Church is the one that gives it. Mother of Jesus, help us be true givers of the Word.**