**01 JANUARY 2022 – OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS**

**MOST HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**

**When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds.**

**Jesus is born. The One who is born is the Only Begotten Son of the Father. He is born in a flesh visibly similar to every other flesh. This infant is the Saviour of Israel and of the world. He is the Messiah promised by God. The entire truth of the Infant who is born and who is born and is wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger is invisible. It is invisible at birth and it is invisible on the cross, too. It is also invisible during all his life in flesh lived among us. The mystery surrounding this infant must be known. To be known, it must be revealed. Neither Mary nor Joseph can reveal it. They are involved people. The One who has to reveal is God himself, his heavenly, eternal Father. How does the Father reveal it? By sending one of his Angel to some shepherds who were keeping the night watch over their flock. Not only does he reveals it, He also gives the sign that his words are most pure truth. The shepherds come, see that everything is as the Angel had said to them and make all the presents know that what they had heard has been seen. That Infant is Christ the Lord. He is the salvation of his people. He is the Messiah of God. God wants to fulfil all his promises in Him.**

**The mystery of Christ Jesus always remains veiled. The one who must proclaim, cry out, unveil, teach it is the entire body of Christ. In the body of Christ, every member is bestowed with his particular, personal responsibility. Even being all responsible of the announcement, everyone must bring into history, among his brothers, a particular scent of Christ the Lord. Even within the Church, everyone must receive from his brothers of faith their particular scent of Christ the Lord. He must then add his particular scent of Christ – work lasting all life – and every day, always adding his particular, personal scent, offer it to every member of the body of Christ and to the entire world. This is the true Tradition where the scent of Christ is not given and received, one gives and receives it enriched with the scent of truth and light carried out in the one who receives it and in the one who gives it in the Spirit. This is the true mission of each disciple of Jesus. It does not consist of saying only some Word of the Gospel. The Word alone is not enough. The body of Christ and the world needs us to make the entire beauty surrounding Christ be felt with our life: beauty of grace, truth, light, eternal light, justice, charity, mercy, forgiveness, love, compassion and every other virtue. It is a commitment that must last all life. It might never be a commitment for one day or for some hours in our life. Filled with the scent of Christ, the entire world must feel this scent and let itself be conquered by it. It is universal mission. Every disciple of the Lord is obliged with it.**

**Let us read the text of Lk 2, 16-21**

**So they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to them. When eight days were completed for his circumcision, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.**

**Jesus is virginally born to Mary. He is born through the work of the Holy Spirit. But when does Jesus become true son of Abraham and true Son of David, bearer of the blessing promised by the Lord to Abraham and to the royalty promised to David in the world? He becomes that in the act of circumcision. Here is the Law given by the Lord to Abraham: “God also said to Abraham: "On your part, you and your descendants after you must keep my covenant throughout the ages. This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you that you must keep: every male among you shall be circumcised. Circumcise the flesh of your foreskin, and that shall be the mark of the covenant between you and me. Throughout the ages, every male among you, when he is eight days old, shall be circumcised, including houseborn slaves and those acquired with money from any foreigner who is not of your blood. Yes, both the houseborn slaves and those acquired with money must be circumcised. Thus my covenant shall be in your flesh as an everlasting pact. If a male is uncircumcised, that is, if the flesh of his foreskin has not been cut away, such a one shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant." (Gen 17, 9-14)**

**Today the Son of Mary, the Son of God, becomes true son of Abraham, true son of the promise, true son of David. As true son of the promise, He might bring the blessing of the Lord for all the people and all the nations in the world. Today the Word of the Lord is fulfilled: “In your descendants – that is Christ Jesus - all the nations of the earth shall find blessing.” Blessed is the one who believes in the mystery of Christ Jesus and becomes mystery of his mystery in Him. May the Mother of God help us meditate everything in heart and walk from faith to faith. Amen.**