**TUESDAY JANUARY 04 – AFTER CHRISTMAS [C]**

**The next day John was there again with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God." The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus.**

**First John the Baptist reveals the people who Jesus is: the Lamb of God who removes sin from the world. The One who baptises in the Holy Spirit. Today he makes the revelation to two of his disciples. As watching Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God." The Lamb of God is truly the Lamb of Passover, whose flesh was used for the long journey of liberation. Instead, one used to put the blood on the jambs and on the architrave of the house door where a family of the children of Abraham lived to push back the destroying angel. In the New Covenant the flesh of the Lamb of God, true flesh of the Son of the Most High is the body offered as remission of sins and the blood is the New and eternal Covenant.**

**The Lamb of God is also the Lamb that is an image of the Suffering Servant of the Lord. Thus the prophet Isaiah: “He was spurned and avoided by men, a man of suffering, accustomed to infirmity, One of those from whom men hide their faces, spurned, and we held him in no esteem. Yet it was our infirmities that he bore, our sufferings that he endured, While we thought of him as stricken, as one smitten by God and afflicted. But he was pierced for our offenses, crushed for our sins, Upon him was the chastisement that makes us whole, by his stripes we were healed. We had all gone astray like sheep, each following his own way; But the LORD laid upon him the guilt of us all. Though he was harshly treated, he submitted and opened not his mouth; Like a lamb led to the slaughter or a sheep before the shearers, he was silent and opened not his mouth. Oppressed and condemned, he was taken away, and who would have thought any more of his destiny? When he was cut off from the land of the living, and smitten for the sin of his people (Is 53,3-8). This is the truth contained in the words of revelation of John the Baptist to his two disciples: “Here is the Lamb of God.”**

**Hearing what he said, the two disciples leave John the Baptist and follow Christ Jesus. They follow him. Jesus turns and says to them, "What are you looking for?" They merely say: "Rabbi, where are you staying?" He invites them to follow Him and see: "Come, and you will see." Following Christ and see where Christ stays and how He lives is needed so that faith may arise in every heart. However, how can one go and see, if Christ is invisible? Today Christ’s place must be taken by each of his disciple, every member of his body, every child of the Church, every stone of the temple of the Holy Spirit. Whoever follows a disciple of Jesus must see Christ Jesus in Him. He should not see things of Christ, but he should see Christ entirely, in the same way as Christ Jesus saw the Father entirely. “Whoever sees me sees my Father”: Jesus said. “Whoever sees me sees Christ Jesus”, each of his disciple must say. But how can one see Jesus in a disciple who hates, calumnies, says falsities and lies, unfairly accuses his brothers with arrogant words of gratuitous slander? How can one see the Son of God in a son of the devil? This is the Christian fail. If then one is children of the devil and justifies this sonship in the name of the Gospel, then one is in a black hole of eternal perdition. Hate is against the known truth.**

**Let us read the text of Jn 1,35-42**

**The next day John was there again with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God." The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come, and you will see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day. It was about four in the afternoon. Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the two who heard John and followed Jesus. He first found his own brother Simon and told him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). Then he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John; you will be called Kephas" (which is translated Peter).**

**The two disciples have seen. What fruit has this vision generated in their heart? A more perfect, richer truth. The Lamb of God is the Messiah. John had not said that Jesus is the Messiah. Instead, he had said that Jesus is the Lamb of God. After having seen and heard, faith is no longer the same. It has grown with a new truth. Jesus is the Messiah of the Lord. Not only has it grown with a new truth, Andrew becomes missionary of this truth and proclaims it to his brother Simon. Not only does he proclaim his faith in Christ, he also leads his brother to Christ, so that he directly meets the Lamb of God, the Messiah. Jesus sees Simon and changes his name. He calls him Peter. He will be the foundation upon whom Jesus will build his Church. A faith that does not walk from faith to faith and from truth to truth is a dead faith. But also a faith that does not become missionary is a barren faith. It is barren as through it, the members within the body of Christ, children of the Church, living stones of the temple of the Holy Spirit are no longer born. May the Mother of God and our Mother make us grow from faith to faith and help us become true missionaries of her Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**