**WEDNESDAY JANUARY 05 – AFTER CHRISTMAS [C]**

**Jesus answered and said to him, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this." And he said to him, "Amen, amen, I say to you, you will see the sky opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."**

**Faith and mission are one only thing. As Jesus is missionary according to faith, so also his disciples must be missionaries according to faith. Jesus goes and says to Philip to follow Him. Philip meets Nathanael and he immediately attests that his faith in Christ is true. It is true as it is made mission. When faith is not made mission, then it is like a tree that bears no fruit. We know what the master of the vineyard thinks, when a tree bears no fruit: “And he told them this parable: "There once was a person who had a fig tree planted in his orchard, and when he came in search of fruit on it but found none, he said to the gardener, 'For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none. (So) cut it down. Why should it exhaust the soil?' He said to him in reply, 'Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future. If not you can cut it down.'"(Lk 13, 6-9) When a faith bears no fruit, then it is also obligation of the one who is responsible for its care to increase his work so that it may bear true fruits of salvation and of eternal life.**

**However, Philip says to Nathanael, a devotee of the Scripture, a truth not corresponding to the Revelation: "We have found the one about whom Moses wrote in the law, and also the prophets, Jesus, son of Joseph, from Nazareth." Nathanael knows that the Messiah cannot come from Nazareth. "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" The prophet Moses speaks about in the Law can come, though:** **"A prophet like me will the LORD, your God, raise up for you from among your own kinsmen; to him you shall listen. This is exactly what you requested of the LORD, your God, at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, 'Let us not again hear the voice of the LORD, our God, nor see this great fire any more, lest we die.' And the LORD said to me, 'This was well said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their kinsmen, and will put my words into his mouth; he shall tell them all that I command him. If any man will not listen to my words which he speaks in my name, I myself will make him answer for it. But if a prophet presumes to speak in my name an oracle that I have not commanded him to speak, or speaks in the name of other gods, he shall die.' "If you say to yourselves, 'How can we recognize an oracle which the LORD has spoken?', know that, even though a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if his oracle is not fulfilled or verified, it is an oracle which the LORD did not speak. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously, and you shall have no fear of him.” (Dt 18, 15-22) Philip invites him to go with him and see, to personally realise what he has just expressed and Nathanael accepts the invitation. Whoever loves the Holy Scripture knows that the ways of the Lord are always mysterious. He must try, observe, study them all. He shall exclude none prior. True man of God, Nathanael!**

**Let us read the text of Jn 1,43-51**

**The next day he decided to go to Galilee, and he found Philip. And Jesus said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the town of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one about whom Moses wrote in the law, and also the prophets, Jesus, son of Joseph, from Nazareth." But Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, "Here is a true Israelite. There is no duplicity in him." Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, I saw you under the fig tree." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel." Jesus answered and said to him, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this." And he said to him, "Amen, amen, I say to you, you will see the sky opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."**

**Jesus sees Nathanael coming toward him and says of him, "Here is a true Israelite. There is no duplicity in him." Nathanael is a pure of heart. He is interested in seeking the will of God expressed in the Scripture and in history. History and the Scripture give the most pure will of God. Here is the truth coming from his heart from history: "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel." But is truth this all? To history one should always add the revelation, that is not only that of yesterday, it is also that of today. Here is what is added by Jesus: “You will see greater things than this." What are these greater things that not just Philip will see, but all the other will? “You will see the sky opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man." Jesus is the Son of God, the Messiah, the King of Israel. Jesus is the Son of man who receives from the Father every power on heaven and on earth. Jesus is the universal Mediator. Through Him, heaven descends on earth and through Him earth ascends to heaven. Through Him, every grace and every truth, light and eternal life are given to men by the Father. This is not for some times or for more times. This is eternal truth of Jesus. Yesterday, today, tomorrow, always, Jesus is the Ladder. Without Christ Jesus, God is not given. The Holy Spirit is not given. Man remains with no salvation, with no light, no grace, no truth. Today it urges to lift up the Ladder in the confession of our faith. Without this elevation, our faith is vain, useless, empty. May the Mother of Jesus help us give Christ his full truth. Amen.**