**WEDNESDAY JANUARY 19 – SECOND WEEK O.T. [C]**

**"Come up here before us." Then he said to them, "Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath rather than to do evil, to save life rather than to destroy it?"**

**If saying a word on a Sabbath day were a work, the Pharisees would be under a mountain of sin for two reasons: first, because they used to speak from dawn till dusk. On the second hand because their words were not of light but of darkness, they were not words of love, but of hate, they were not words of mercy but of great wickedness. Never has the Lord neither through Moses, nor through the Psalms, nor through the prophets prohibited man to utter to man, his brother, words of consolation, love, comfort, hope, light, truth, justice, support, encouragement, help. The word does not fall into the third commandment. Instead, it falls into the eighth commandment that prohibits every word that may cause even a minimal damage to another man. For the Pharisees this commandment does not exist. In fact they can calumniate, bear false testimony, lie, deceive, gossip, unfairly accuse and for them everything is lawful and everything normal.**

**Instead, for Jesus saying a word of consolation and, also of healing – I repeat: only a word, nothing else – was a reason of accusation of transgression of the third commandment. Then it is righteous that we ask: why were the Pharisees so blind and so foolish? They are so foolish and so blind because the Lord has abandoned them to themselves. He has withdrawn his Holy Spirit from them. He has deprived them of his wisdom and of his intelligence. What the Book of Wisdom reveals is fulfilled for them: “Love justice, you who judge the earth; think of the LORD in goodness, and seek him in integrity of heart; Because he is found by those who test him not, and he manifests himself to those who do not disbelieve him. For perverse counsels separate a man from God, and his power, put to the proof, rebukes the foolhardy; Because into a soul that plots evil wisdom enters not, nor dwells she in a body under debt of sin. For the holy spirit of discipline flees deceit and withdraws from senseless counsels; and when injustice occurs it is rebuked. For wisdom is a kindly spirit, yet she acquits not the blasphemer of his guilty lips; Because God is the witness of his inmost self and the sure observer of his heart and the listener to his tongue. For the spirit of the LORD fills the world, is all-embracing, and knows what man says. Therefore no one who utters wicked things can go unnoticed, nor will chastising condemnation pass him by. For the devices of the wicked man shall be scrutinized, and the sound of his words shall reach the LORD, for the chastisement of his transgressions; Because a jealous ear hearkens to everything, and discordant grumblings are no secret. Therefore guard against profitless grumbling, and from calumny withhold your tongues; For a stealthy utterance does not go unpunished, and a lying mouth slays the soul.” (Wis 1, 1-11)**

**But, prior to that, for a member of the body of Christ, his first work, for him, will have to consist of bringing Christ to every man so that every man chooses Christ Jesus as unique and only source of his life. If he bring any other thing, but he does not bring Christ, his work is vain. We can thus paraphrase the beginning of the hymn to charity of the Apostle Paul: “If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not bring Christ to every man, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains but do not bring Christ to every man, I am nothing. If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast but do not bring Christ to every man, I gain nothing.” (cf. 1Cor 13, 1-3) We can say that a member of the body of Christ dwells in Wisdom only when his life is entirely consecrated to bear testimony to Christ Jesus with all his work, and to give Christ Jesus to every man with his words, inviting everyone to believe in Christ and convert to Him, to his Person, by converting to his Gospel.**

**Let us read the text of Mk 3,1-6**

**Again he entered the synagogue. There was a man there who had a withered hand. They watched him closely to see if he would cure him on the sabbath so that they might accuse him. He said to the man with the withered hand, "Come up here before us." Then he said to them, "Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath rather than to do evil, to save life rather than to destroy it?" But they remained silent. Looking around at them with anger and grieved at their hardness of heart, he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out and his hand was restored. The Pharisees went out and immediately took counsel with the Herodians against him to put him to death.**

**Risen Jesus lived the first day of the week taking the light of his truth first to the disciples of Emmaus accompanying them on the way leading to their town from Jerusalem. He has dedicated the evening of the same day to enlighten his disciples so that they understand what had been written about Him in the Law, in the Prophets, in the Psalms. Speaking on the day of the Lord and speaking for the good of the brothers and of Christ Jesus is work of Wisdom. May the Mother of the Lord help us.**