**THURSDAY MARCH 17 – SECOND WEEK OF LENT [C]**

**But Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets. Let them listen to them.' He said, 'Oh no, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.'**

**Man is not nature without will. He is not will without nature. Neither is he nature and will without rationality. Man is nature endowed with will and rationality. But is man all of that? Man is also becoming. Man is past, present on his journey toward a future both in time, but above all in eternal future. This future is entirely placed in the will and in the rationality of man. Not only has God created man, He has also revealed him what his future is. It will be a future of death if he does not listen to his voice, if he does not obey to what was or will revealed to him. Instead, it will be a future of life if he listens and lives according to what his Creator commands him to do. Death and life, both today in future, in time, and both tomorrow in the eternal future, are by the choice of the single person. Everyone can choose of walking in life and helping every other man so that he walks in life. But he can also choose death and tempt many others so that they, too, walk along their own way.**

**So that man always knows on which way he is walking, the Lord has given him a help that is before his eyes. This help is his own life. Without the light coming from God, though, man is blind. He is not capable of reading in the book of his life. To this first help, the Lord has added another one: his prophets. These are the eyes of God, they are the Word of God, they are the light of God. They see that man is walking along ways of death and they warn him so that he comes back into the way of life and he comes back into the way of life only when he listens to the Word of the Lord and gives it perfect fulfilment. The rich man of the parable narrated by Jesus is blind. He does not see that the life he is leading flows in the eternal perdition. The Lord sends a special prophet to him. It is a prophet who does not speak with the mouth. He speaks with his life that is of sufferance, of physical misery, of a body covered with sores. This prophet is before his door. Dogs see him. He does not see. He does not see him since, by then, his heart has reached the highest hardness. Not seeing him, he can neither listen to his cry of help. This particular prophet was his key for salvation. He does not take this key. He dies and ends up in the eternal fire, which he might never leave.**

**The fire makes him open his eyes. His rationality begins to work. There are five brothers who may end up just like him. Even his will begins to work. He does not want them to end up in the fire as he has ended up in fire and asks Abraham for a great favour: Abraham replies that his brothers have the Law and the Prophets. It is everything to be saved. The rich man replies that the Law and the Prophets are not saving his brothers. He neither has been saved by the Law and by the Prophets. They need a superior intervention. They need one from the kingdom of the eternal truth goes and warns them. Abraham replies that whoever does not listen to the Law and the Prophets will never listen to anyone. The way of salvation are the Law and the Prophets. He, the rich man, not listening to the Law and the Prophets, has not even listened to Lazarus sent to him by the Lord as most powerful help so that he converted to have the eternal life.**

**Let us read the text of Lk 16,19-31**

**"There was a rich man who dressed in purple garments and fine linen and dined sumptuously each day. And lying at his door was a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who would gladly have eaten his fill of the scraps that fell from the rich man's table. Dogs even used to come and lick his sores. When the poor man died, he was carried away by angels to the bosom of Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried, and from the netherworld, where he was in torment, he raised his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. And he cried out, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me. Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am suffering torment in these flames.' Abraham replied, 'My child, remember that you received what was good during your lifetime while Lazarus likewise received what was bad; but now he is comforted here, whereas you are tormented. Moreover, between us and you a great chasm is established to prevent anyone from crossing who might wish to go from our side to yours or from your side to ours.' He said, 'Then I beg you, father, send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they too come to this place of torment.' But Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets. Let them listen to them.' He said, 'Oh no, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' Then Abraham said, 'If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone should rise from the dead.'"**

**Lazarus is a help the Lord sends us for our conversion. However, we must confess that God’s helps are numberless. He always finds new ones. But man is blind. He does not see them. He stumbles against them, but he does not see them. Why does he not see them? Because he is not in the Law and in the Prophets. He is not in the Gospel. Who must help every man so that he enters the Gospel? Only the one who is in the Gospel. The one who is not in the Gospel might never help one only man to enter the Gospel. May the Mother of God come to our rescue. May She let us enter the Gospel. We might help the others.**