**03 APRIL – FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT [C]**

**And in response, they went away one by one, beginning with the elders. So he was left alone with the woman before him. Then Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She replied, "No one, sir." Then Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go, (and) from now on do not sin any more."**

**The Pharisees and the scribes use the same logic as Jezebel. This woman first decided the death of Naboth and then showed the head of the town how to get rid of him:** “**Some time after this, as Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard in Jezreel next to the palace of Ahab, king of Samaria, Ahab said to Naboth, "Give me your vineyard to be my vegetable garden, since it is close by, next to my house. I will give you a better vineyard in exchange, or, if you prefer, I will give you its value in money." "The LORD forbid," Naboth answered him, "that I should give you my ancestral heritage." Ahab went home disturbed and angry at the answer Naboth the Jezreelite had made to him: "I will not give you my ancestral heritage." Lying down on his bed, he turned away from food and would not eat. His wife Jezebel came to him and said to him, "Why are you so angry that you will not eat?" He answered her, "Because I spoke to Naboth the Jezreelite and said to him, 'Sell me your vineyard, or, if you prefer, I will give you a vineyard in exchange.' But he refused to let me have his vineyard." "A fine ruler over Israel you are indeed!" his wife Jezebel said to him. "Get up. Eat and be cheerful. I will obtain the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite for you." So she wrote letters in Ahab's name and, having sealed them with his seal, sent them to the elders and to the nobles who lived in the same city with Naboth. This is what she wrote in the letters: "Proclaim a fast and set Naboth at the head of the people. Next, get two scoundrels to face him and accuse him of having cursed God and king. Then take him out and stone him to death." His fellow citizens - the elders and the nobles who dwelt in his city - did as Jezebel had ordered them in writing, through the letters she had sent them. They proclaimed a fast and placed Naboth at the head of the people. Two scoundrels came in and confronted him with the accusation, "Naboth has cursed God and king." And they led him out of the city and stoned him to death. Then they sent the information to Jezebel that Naboth had been stoned to death. When Jezebel learned that Naboth had been stoned to death, she said to Ahab, "Go on, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite which he refused to sell you, because Naboth is not alive, but dead." On hearing that Naboth was dead, Ahab started off on his way down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, to take possession of it.” (1Kg 21, 1-16)**

**Jezebel’s logic is rude, very rude. The logic of the scribes and of the Pharisees, instead, is elaborate, studied, of fleshy and devilish wisdom. They first decide the death of Jesus, then arm traps on his path to catch him out in some of his pronouncement so that they can be able to kill him in a smart way, without being accused of violating the Law of Moses. When one loses the fear of the Lord, when one hands himself over to the hands of Satan and becomes his ministries, one will always use his logic to kill those who think as God and not as Satan. They are ministries of Satan to spread his poison of hatred and of death in the world. Even nowadays, this satanic and hellish logic is not far from us. Even nowadays one writes the death sentence first. Then one pretends to investigate. Immediately then one issues the death sentence. Then one justifies the sentence citing fictitious reasons always fruit of this devilish and satanic logic. Satan knows how to handle with his instruments.**

**Let us read the text of Jn 8,1-11**

**Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. But early in the morning he arrived again in the temple area, and all the people started coming to him, and he sat down and taught them. Then the scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery and made her stand in the middle. They said to him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?" They said this to test him, so that they could have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground with his finger. But when they continued asking him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." Again he bent down and wrote on the ground. And in response, they went away one by one, beginning with the elders. So he was left alone with the woman before him. Then Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She replied, "No one, sir." Then Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go, (and) from now on do not sin any more."**

**The scribes and the Pharisees appeal to Moses. Moses is not the only thought of God. Moses is the primitive thought of God. After Moses there is an army of prophets revealing all the will of forgiveness from the Lord in the conversion of man and in the return in the Law of the Covenant. The scribes and the Pharisees forget that their great Father David, was an adulterer, too, and that the great Solomon is the son of an adulterer woman. Jesus cannot say that, though. The Holy Spirit gives him the right word: "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." The only one who is without sin is Jesus. Jesus was not sent to throw stones but to give his life for the salvation of the world. Jesus does not condemn. The woman must not sin anymore. One does not forgive to return to sin, but not to sin anymore. May the Mother of God make us instruments of life.**