**TUESDAY APRIL 05 – FIFTH WEEK OF LENT [C]**

**"You belong to what is below, I belong to what is above. You belong to this world, but I do not belong to this world. That is why I told you that you will die in your sins. For if you do not believe that I AM, you will die in your sins."**

**If the scribes and the Pharisees do not believe that Jesus is God, they will die in their sins. The entire Gospel of the Apostle John is aimed at manifesting this truth:** “**Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of (his) disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may (come to) believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name.” (Jn 20, 30-31) Believing that Jesus is the Son of God, not in a moral sense, or of worship, though, thus is for every disciple of Jesus of Jesus that is made son of God in his Son Christ Jesus. When the Apostle John says that we are called to believe in the first page of his Gospel:** “**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.** **And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. John testified to him and cried out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'The one who is coming after me ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.'" From his fullness we have all received, grace in place of grace, because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. The only Son, God, who is at the Father's side, has revealed him.” (cf. Jn 1, 1-18)**

**Can the scribes and the Pharisees come to the faith that Jesus is the Only Begotten Son of the Father? They can in the same way as the Pharaoh could have come to the faith that the God of the children of Israel was stronger that all the gods that were worshipped in Egypt. The magicians of Egypt have confessed it, he could have confessed, too, if his heart had not hardened every day in his stubbornness of fighting against the Lord. We know where his nonsense, irrational, stubborn obstinacy has led him: “Thereupon the LORD said to Moses, "Tell Aaron to stretch out his staff and strike the dust of the earth, that it may be turned into gnats throughout the land of Egypt." They did so. Aaron stretched out his hand, and with his staff he struck the dust of the earth, and gnats came upon man and beast. The dust of the earth was turned into gnats throughout the land of Egypt. Though the magicians tried to bring forth gnats by their magic arts, they could not do so. As the gnats infested man and beast, the magicians said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God." Yet Pharaoh remained obstinate and would not listen to them, just as the LORD had foretold.” (Ex 8, 12-15) When the Lord adds a new truth to his truth already revealed yesterday, He always gives man every help so that he may accept that new truth with a highly human act, namely act of faith, also set upon the foundation of the sound and righteous rationality. If the scribes and the Pharisees do not believe that Jesus is God, it is because of their stubborn will, fruit of their sin, that has always governed their heart. They did not want because of stubborn refusal, not because the demanded faith was beyond their own mind. They did not believe. They perseverated in their stubbornness. They have crucified the Lord of glory.**

**Let us read the text of Jn 8,21-30**

**He said to them again, "I am going away and you will look for me, but you will die in your sin. Where I am going you cannot come." So the Jews said, "He is not going to kill himself, is he, because he said, 'Where I am going you cannot come'?" He said to them, "You belong to what is below, I belong to what is above. You belong to this world, but I do not belong to this world. That is why I told you that you will die in your sins. For if you do not believe that I AM, you will die in your sins." So they said to him, "Who are you?" Jesus said to them, "What I told you from the beginning. I have much to say about you in condemnation. But the one who sent me is true, and what I heard from him I tell the world." They did not realize that he was speaking to them of the Father. So Jesus said (to them), "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will realize that I AM, and that I do nothing on my own, but I say only what the Father taught me. The one who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, because I always do what is pleasing to him." Because he spoke this way, many came to believe in him.**

**Today it is up to us disciple of Jesus to help every man to believe with wise, sound, righteous rationality that Jesus is the Son of God, so that, in believing, one has the life in his name. How to succeed in that? Manifesting the fruits of the faith in Him, fruits that no man might ever fulfil. The man born of Adam can fulfil only the works of flesh, without the grace of God. The man born to new life in the water of the Baptism can produce every fruit of good in the Holy Spirit. Producing every fruit of good, the other one, seeing these fruits, will have to question himself and ask: “Why can he do it and can I not?” Here is the reply: “My faith in Christ makes possible what is impossible to you.” Given this testimony, every other thing will be worked by the Holy Spirit. He is the one who pierces the heart and prompts the will so that it adheres to Christ Jesus. However, if the Christian does not show his works of true child of God, no one might never come to faith through him. He is without the Holy Spirit. He is in flesh. From flesh, one does not attracts to Jesus the Lord. Mother of God, attract us to Jesus.**