**WEDNESDAY APRIL 06 – FIFTH WEEK OF LENT [C]**

**Jesus then said to those Jews who believed in him, "If you remain in my word, you will truly be my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."**

**Regarding the concept of freedom there are endless errors as many as confusions today. Let us immediately say that the freedom of man is in the knowledge of truth. Truth is from the Truth of Christ. Truth is Christ. One does not only know with mind, but also with heart and with body. The one who becomes one only body, one only life, one only soul with Christ the Lord knows truth. Sin, disobedience to the Word, is the prison of man’s slavery. The Word of Jesus is the Law of true freedom. There is no freedom for the one who does not live in the Gospel of Christ the Lord. The Apostle Paul, in the Letter to the Galatians, warns us so that we do not confuse freedom with licentiousness. Freedom is in the discipleship of the Spirit. Licentiousness in the discipleship of flesh. Whoever produces the fruits of the Spirit is free. The one who fulfils the works of flesh is slave.**

**For man, and for the Christian too, today freedom is doing what one wants, how one wants. No longer having any supernatural principle of truth from which the sound morality, the righteous acting according to the will of the Creator, Lord, Saviour of man arises. Today everything is freedom. Freedom is denying the Lord, killing, adulterating, robbing, bearing false testimony, desiring the woman of others or the man of others. Freedom is disobedience to every natural or revealed law. Freedom is following the instincts that often reduce man to a spectre. Today freedom is chasing every vice, every instinct, every sexual disorder. Today freedom is undressing of every virtues and wearing every vice. All of that is fruit of the rampant idolatry in which we are precipitating. The Gospel is the moral rule to observe. It is not a word to listen. A plane is in its freedom when it flies above the sky. A train is in its freedom when it runs on the rails. A ship is in its freedom when it sails the oceans. A man is in his freedom when he also respects the purpose for which he was created and the purpose is only one: being in obedience to his God, always. When one puts himself out of obedience, one is no longer in the freedom, one is instead in the great slavery of death and of sin. It is truth: the more man falls into sin, the more he goes down into it. It is like a stone on the edge of a cliff: if it precipitates, it stops only when it touches the base. The one who precipitates might rise up again only through the almighty grace of the Lord. The Lord reveals and gives his omnipotence in Christ Jesus, by the means of the Spirit, through the necessary and indispensable mediation of the Church. Since today, from many parties, one is teaching that the Church is no longer necessary in the gift of the grace and of the Holy Spirit, since all religions are ways of true salvation, one is condemning the world to live under the perennial slavery of sin. Today one no longer believes in the Word of Jesus: "If you remain in my word, you will truly be my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." Here is the condition to be free: “remaining in the word of Jesus, becoming his true disciples.” Word and discipleship of Christ Jesus are necessary to be free from every slavery of evil. Today, beyond the declaration of non-necessity of remaining in the Word, one is also affirming the non-necessity if the other condition set by Jesus: being his disciples. Whoever affirms these things are precisely those who should affirm it and namely those who say to be Christians. Those who openly declare themselves to be Christians, but then betray and deny Christ Jesus with words and deeds, selling it to the thought of the world. Selling Christ to the thought of the world is already true slavery.**

**Let us read the text of Jn 8,31-42**

**Jesus then said to those Jews who believed in him, "If you remain in my word, you will truly be my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How can you say, 'You will become free'?" Jesus answered them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave of sin. A slave does not remain in a household forever, but a son always remains. So if a son frees you, then you will truly be free. I know that you are descendants of Abraham. But you are trying to kill me, because my word has no room among you. I tell you what I have seen in the Father's presence; then do what you have heard from the Father." They answered and said to him, "Our father is Abraham." Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing the works of Abraham. But now you are trying to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God; Abraham did not do this. You are doing the works of your father!" (So) they said to him, "We are not illegitimate. We have one Father, God." Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and am here; I did not come on my own, but he sent me.**

**What truth must man know to become truly free? The truth is that Christ Jesus in his Person and in his two natures bears. He truly comes from heaven, but He does not come as an Angel. He in heaven, in eternity, is the Only Begotten Son of the Father. He, as Only Begotten Son of the Father, comes making himself flesh to fulfil the redemption of humanity. The truth of Jesus is that He is true God and true man. He is true God in a true man and the true man in the true God, for He is the God who made himself man. This truth is eternally only his and of no one else and this difference makes the difference with every other man. Mother of God, make us free in Christ. We will attest the world what is the true freedom.**