**MONDAY APRIL 11 – HOLY WEEK [C]**

**So Jesus said, "Leave her alone. Let her keep this for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."**

**Mary, Lazarus and Martha’s sister, anoints Jesus’s feet with a costly perfumed oil. Judas sees this scene and immediately intervenes. It is a true waste. One could sell this oil not sold for three hundred days' wages and given to the poor. The Holy Spirit knows the heart of Judas and he reveals it to the Apostle John. Here is the true thought of Judas: “He said this not because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief and held the money bag and used to steal the contributions.” The Scripture always says that the poor are pastures for the rich. “Every being is drawn to its own kind; with his own kind every man associates. Is a wolf ever allied with a lamb? So it is with the sinner and the just. Can there be peace between the hyena and the dog? Or between the rich and the poor can there be peace? Lion's prey are the wild asses of the desert; so too the poor are feeding grounds for the rich. A proud man abhors lowliness; so does the rich man abhor the poor. When a rich man stumbles he is supported by a friend; when a poor man trips he is pushed down by a friend. Many are the supporters for a rich man when he speaks; though what he says is odious, it wins approval. When a poor man speaks they make sport of him; he speaks wisely and no attention is paid him. A rich man speaks and all are silent, his wisdom they extol to the clouds. A poor man speaks and they say: "Who is that?" If he slips they cast him down. Wealth is good when there is no sin; but poverty is evil by the standards of the proud. The heart of a man changes his countenance, either for good or for evil.” (Sir 13, 15-24) The one who does not love God and his Word with all his heart might never love the neighbour. He will always take advantage of him through every way and every means.**

**Now Jesus reveals the reason why the oil is not to be sold. Mary must keep it for the day of his burial, that will not be within a long time. By then the time of Christ Jesus will have come and he is walking through his passion and death. Mary is right not to sell this precious oil. She will need it very soon. Now it is righteous to make a brief reflection about the works of mercy. They are not only for the body of a man. They must be much more for the spirit of man, for his heart, often needing a great love. Even Jesus needs comforters. The Psalm attests it:** “**Scorn has broken my heart and has left me helpless; I looked for sympathy, but there was none, for comforters, but I found none. They put gall in my food and gave me vinegar for my thirst.” (Psal 69, 20-22) Today Mary greatly comforts the heart of Christ Jesus. This consolation gives him strength so that He can fulfil his mission until the end. Here are the two sources so that consolation is perfect: the consolation of God and the consolation of man. Even when He was on the cross, Jesus was comforted by the praying presence of his Mother and of the very few people who were at the feet of his cross:** “**Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.” (Jn 19, 25-27) These people comfort Jesus, Jesus comforts his Mother and the disciple He loved by giving the Mother to the disciple and the disciple to the Mother. From this moment, they are called to be mutual consolation. They might live their mission in a perfect, full way.**

**Let us read the text of Jn 12,1-11**

**Six days before Passover Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. They gave a dinner for him there, and Martha served, while Lazarus was one of those reclining at table with him. Mary took a liter of costly perfumed oil made from genuine aromatic nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and dried them with her hair; the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. Then Judas the Iscariot, one (of) his disciples, and the one who would betray him, said, "Why was this oil not sold for three hundred days' wages and given to the poor?" He said this not because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief and held the money bag and used to steal the contributions. So Jesus said, "Leave her alone. Let her keep this for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me." (The) large crowd of the Jews found out that he was there and came, not only because of Jesus, but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. And the chief priests plotted to kill Lazarus too, because many of the Jews were turning away and believing in Jesus because of him.**

**Every man is always before every other man. How to comfort him? Every Apostle of Jesus knows that the only consolation He must give is in the gift of the Word, of the grace, of the Holy Spirit, of the light, of the truth that come from the heart of Christ who entirely live in his heart. Every Christian will know how to comfort according to truth only if he perennially moved by the Holy Spirit and that is why he, too, must dwell in the heart of Christ the Lord. Mary lives in the heart of Christ and the Holy Spirit can lead her well so that she gives Christ the Lord the necessary consolation today to fulfil his mission. May the Mother of Jesus, Mother of every consolation, help us. We want to live in the heart of Christ.**