**TUESDAY APRIL 12 – HOLY WEEK [C]**

**After he took the morsel, Satan entered him. So Jesus said to him, "What you are going to do, do quickly."**

**In the Gospel according to John, Jesus has already said that Judas is a devil:** “**As a result of this, many (of) his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him. Jesus then said to the Twelve, "Do you also want to leave?" Simon Peter answered him, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God." Jesus answered them, "Did I not choose you twelve? Yet is not one of you a devil?" He was referring to Judas, son of Simon the Iscariot; it was he who would betray him, one of the Twelve.” (Jn 6, 66-71) After this clear and sharp word revealing whom Judas is – a devil – never in the Scripture is another person called devil. John calls all those who do evil: children of devil – we find Judas in the house of Lazarus, unmasked by the Holy Spirit as a thief:** “**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.” (Jn 12, 4-6) In the Cenacle, Jesus reveals his betrayal, not to all his disciple, but to John and he says it to Peter. Then, once again Judas is remembered by Jesus in his prayer and called child of destruction:** “**When I was with them I protected them in your name that you gave me, and I guarded them, and none of them was lost except the son of destruction, in order that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you. I speak this in the world so that they may share my joy completely. I gave them your word, and the world hated them, because they do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world.” (Jn 17, 12-14)**

**Now let us ask: how is it possible that the Lord, in the Holy Spirit, chooses a person who then betrays him as an Apostle? The answer is in the heart of the Father. He bestows every good to his children. He even gives his Son as a victim of expiation for the sins of the world. The Father wants, by most pure love, grant Judas the greater honour existing on earth: becoming continuer in history of the mission of salvation entrusted by Him to his Only Begotten Son and that the Son will then hand over to his Apostles. Every gift the Father gives is first to be accepted in faith and then made it grow according to the rules of faith so that it produces true fruits of eternal life. Since faith is a true human act one does not put in the Word once forever, but is to be put every moment, being man always subjected to temptation, there is always the danger that he falls into temptation and abandon himself to the thoughts of his heart, that are then inspired in this heart by the prince of the world. Satan was not devil when Jesus has called him. He became a devil after his call for having lost the faith in Christ the Lord. In losing faith and letting Satan turn him into devil, what is the deed of the deed of the devil? That of destroying Christ. Moreover, in the Cenacle, Judas was already a devil, he is owned by the devil entirely, so entirely to lead him, after his act of betrayal, to hang his head on a tree, dying the death of impious.**

**Let us read the text of Jn 13,21-33.36-38**

**When he had said this, Jesus was deeply troubled and testified, "Amen, amen, I say to you, one of you will betray me." The disciples looked at one another, at a loss as to whom he meant. One of his disciples, the one whom Jesus loved, was reclining at Jesus' side. So Simon Peter nodded to him to find out whom he meant. He leaned back against Jesus' chest and said to him, "Master, who is it?" Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I hand the morsel after I have dipped it." So he dipped the morsel and (took it and) handed it to Judas, son of Simon the Iscariot. After he took the morsel, Satan entered him. So Jesus said to him, "What you are going to do, do quickly." (Now) none of those reclining at table realized why he said this to him. Some thought that since Judas kept the money bag, Jesus had told him, "Buy what we need for the feast," or to give something to the poor. So he took the morsel and left at once. And it was night. When he had left, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. (If God is glorified in him,) God will also glorify him in himself, and he will glorify him at once. My children, I will be with you only a little while longer. You will look for me, and as I told the Jews, 'Where I go you cannot come,' so now I say it to you.** **Simon Peter said to him, "Master, where are you going?" Jesus answered (him), "Where I am going, you cannot follow me now, though you will follow later." Peter said to him, "Master, why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you." Jesus answered, "Will you lay down your life for me? Amen, amen, I say to you, the cock will not crow before you deny me three times."**

**Judas is a severe warning for every disciple of Jesus. Everyone must think that in the moment in which he loses the faith in the Word of Christ Jesus, the word of Satan immediately takes its place and little by little, step by step, leads him to his paths that are paths of hatred against Christ Jesus. If today the hatred against Christ is covered with love for man, this is sign that one has passed from the heart of Christ into the heart of Satan. He who is in the heart of Satan might never work to defend Christ. He will work to destroy the Gospel and with the Gospel Christ the Lord. May the Mother of Jesus deliver us from such horrible sin.**