**MONDAY NOVEMBER 28 – I WEEK OF ADVENT [A]**

**I say to you, many will come from the east and the west, and will recline with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob at the banquet in the kingdom of heaven**

**Jesus does not only come for the salvation of his people. He comes for the redemption of the world. One preaches the Gospel, one believes in it, one lets himself be baptized, one enters the mystery of the salvation done by Christ Jesus. To whom must the Gospel be preached? To every man. Every heart must receive the seed of the Word of Christ Jesus. This truth has been revealed by Jesus himself before the parable of the Sower and then given as command to the Apostles after his glorious resurrection:**

**And he spoke to them at length in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky ground, where it had little soil. It sprang up at once because the soil was not deep, and when the sun rose it was scorched, and it withered for lack of roots. Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it. But some seed fell on rich soil, and produced fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold. Whoever has ears ought to hear."** **Hear then the parable of the sower. The seed sown on the path is the one who hears the word of the kingdom without understanding it, and the evil one comes and steals away what was sown in his heart. The seed sown on rocky ground is the one who hears the word and receives it at once with joy. But he has no root and lasts only for a time. When some tribulation or persecution comes because of the word, he immediately falls away. The seed sown among thorns is the one who hears the word, but then worldly anxiety and the lure of riches choke the word and it bears no fruit. But the seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold." (Mt 13,3-9.18-23). “Then Jesus approached and said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." (Mt 28,18-20). If the Apostles do not sow the good Word of the Gospel, the kingdom of God will never arise in one only heart and one will never make disciples for Christ Jesus. They can preach, teach, announce all the thoughts of this world, all the words of this earth, however the Kingdom of God can never arise in hearts. The Word of Jesus must be preached pure, as pure it has been handed over. Every modification and every transformation of the Word makes it word of men. Since today the entire Word is transformed and altered, modified according to the preference of this or that disciple, not only does the kingdom of God not arise, it is dying in many hearts. The life of the Church is from the sowing of the Word. The more one sows the Word and more life will arise in it. The less Word one sows and less life will be through it.**

**Let us read the text of Mt 8,5-11**

**When he entered Capernaum, a centurion approached him and appealed to him, saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, suffering dreadfully." He said to him, "I will come and cure him." The centurion said in reply, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof; only say the word and my servant will be healed. For I too am a person subject to authority, with soldiers subject to me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come here,' and he comes; and to my slave, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, "Amen, I say to you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith. I say to you, many will come from the east and the west, and will recline with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob at the banquet in the kingdom of heaven.**

**Today a centurion comes to Jesus and implores him so that he heals his servant who lies at home paralyzed and suffering dreadfully. Jesus promptly accepts the prayer, replying to the centurion: “I will come and cure him.” Now the centurion manifests all his faith in Jesus. In the world of the soldiers the word is enough. There is no need of the presence. You, Jesus, are the Supreme Chief of the creation. One needs you to say one only Word, the illness listens to you and it will leave my servant. Your presence is not necessary. One only needs you to say a Word. Jesus is amazed for such a perfect faith and manifests it: "Amen, I say to you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith.”**

**We know that the entire creation exists because it is called to the existence from the almighty Word of the Lord. Every element of the creation obeys every Word the Lord has handed over. Only man – the Angels, too – must obey by will if they want to remain alive. If they disobey, they precipitate in death. Then Jesus adds that the time to think that the kingdom of heaven is only for the children of Abraham is over. The kingdom of heaven is for every child of Adam. In fact, people will come from the east and the west and from the north and the south and will recline at table with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of God. These all must go through the gate of the faith in the Word of Jesus, though. If one does not go through this gate and one does not remain in the Gospel, one does not enter the kingdom of heaven. May the Mother of God help us not only to believe in Christ Jesus according to his Word, but also to persevere in faith to enter the eternal kingdom.**