**FRIDAY DECEMBER 09 – SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT [A]**

**For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they said, 'He is possessed by a demon.' The Son of Man came eating and drinking and they said, 'Look, he is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.'**

**When a heart falls into insensibility such that it can be indifferent before every prophet the Lord sends him to invite him to conversion, so as to enter the blessing and the life that are fruit of his obedience to the Word of the Lord, for this heart there is only the spiritual death, spiritual death that is consumed in a perennial sloth. For whoever falls in this deadly sin there is the death of the conscience, generated in its turn by the death of the man’s spirit. We know the fruits of this spiritual death: they are the total and full insensibility before the good and the evil, the light and the darkness, the righteousness and the unrighteousness. Whoever falls in this insensibility incurs in that sin condemned by the Holy Spirit to the angel of the Church of Laodicea, accused to be neither cold nor hot. The decision of the Lord regarding this angel is unique in the Holy Scripture. "To the angel of the church in Laodicea, write this: 'The Amen, the faithful and true witness, the source of God's creation, says this: "I know your works; I know that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either cold or hot. So, because you are lukewarm, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. For you say, 'I am rich and affluent and have no need of anything,' and yet do not realize that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.” (Rev 3,14-17). The slothful is the one who is fine in his pond of indifference. In this pond, though, he remains wrapped by his condition of not saved, not redeemed, not justified, not cleansed in the blood of Jesus the Lord. He remains in the flesh for the works of the flesh. Sloth is not a neutral state, neither of good nor for evil. Instead, it is the indifference before God and men, in the real capability to fulfil every evil. For the slothful, it is easy to let oneself be dragged by the courant of the sin. He is a leaf in the hands of Satan. When one reaches this state of the spiritual life, one is at the point of not return. For the conversion, one needs a very powerful grace of God, a very strong jolt. Today the death of the conscience and of the spirit is creating true disasters among the Christians. The people of the Lord is fallen in this insensibility. Neither the resurrection of Jesus the Lord, who attested the truth of each of his Word, has stirred it. Rather, the Pharisees and the scribes, the chief priests and elders of the people, have done everything to suffocate the truth of Christ. Not even the fall of Jerusalem and the destruction of the temple has convinced them that the Word of Jesus was and is most pure truth in eternity. The Holy Spirit reveals through the mouth of the Apostle Paul that one day the children of Abraham will let themselves be blessed by his Offspring that is Christ Jesus: “I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers, so that you will not become wise (in) your own estimation: a hardening has come upon Israel in part, until the full number of the Gentiles comes in, and thus all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The deliverer will come out of Zion, he will turn away godlessness from Jacob; and this is my covenant with them when I take away their sins." In respect to the gospel, they are enemies on your account; but in respect to election, they are beloved because of the patriarchs. For the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable. Just as you once disobeyed God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now disobeyed in order that, by virtue of the mercy shown to you, they too may (now) receive mercy. For God delivered all to disobedience, that he might have mercy upon all. Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How inscrutable are his judgments and how unsearchable his ways! "For who has known the mind of the Lord or who has been his counselor?" "Or who has given him anything that he may be repaid?" For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.” (Rm 11,26-36). Solo per grazia l’insensibilità si vince. Insensibility is overcome only for grace.**

**Let us read the text of Mt 11,16-19**

**"To what shall I compare this generation? It is like children who sit in marketplaces and call to one another, 'We played the flute for you, but you did not dance, we sang a dirge but you did not mourn.' For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they said, 'He is possessed by a demon.' The Son of Man came eating and drinking and they said, 'Look, he is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.' But wisdom is vindicated by her works."**

**Yet the generation of the time of Jesus only had to observe the deeds of Jesus the Lord and they would have come to a truth: no prophet and no envoy of the Lord has fulfilled such great deeds. From the deeds, one knows their authors. From what can we know that our faith in Christ is vain today? From the absence of the deeds that the body of Christ has always fulfilled in history. If I do not fulfil the works of Christ, my faith in Christ is vain. If I do not produce any bunch, I attest that I am a dried branch. Even my ignorance will be acknowledged unjust for lack of supernatural deeds of conversion and sanctification. Since today not only do we not produce these deeds, we add that they must not be produced, our ignorance is truly unfair. It is unfair for our faith in Christ Jesus is false. Mother of God, make us of most pure faith in Christ the Lord today and always.**