**FRIDAY DECEMBER 23 – FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT [A]**

**Then fear came upon all their neighbors, and all these matters were discussed throughout the hill country of Judea. All who heard these things took them to heart, saying, "What, then, will this child be?" For surely the hand of the Lord was with him.**

**History is made of visible events whose roots are invisible. The visible facts reveal the goodness or the wickedness of the roots. However, who sees both the goodness and the wickedness of the invisible roots? Only the one who has the pure heart: “Blessed are the pure of heart, for they will see God.” They will see Him in the history that unfolds before their eyes. But we can also say: “Blesses are the pure of heart for they will see Satan.” The pure of heart sees God where God works. But he also sees Satan where Satan works. The Pharisees who are not pure of heart do not see God in Jesus. They see Satan, instead. This means that their heart was totally perverted. Satan who is in their heart lies against Jesus and affirms that He works on behalf of Beelzebul, the chief of demons. Jesus highlights the depravation of their heart with unequivocal words: "Either declare the tree good and its fruit is good, or declare the tree rotten and its fruit is rotten, for a tree is known by its fruit. You brood of vipers, how can you say good things when you are evil? For from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks. A good person brings forth good out of a store of goodness, but an evil person brings forth evil out of a store of evil. I tell you, on the day of judgment people will render an account for every careless word they speak. By your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned." (Mt 12,33-37). When a man is man is not capable to see God in history and also the action of Satan, it is the sign that his heart is impure. Not seeing God, he neither sees Satan and attributes the works of Satan to God and the works of God to Satan, so great the blindness of his heart is: “Then they brought to him a demoniac who was blind and mute. He cured the mute person so that he could speak and see. All the crowd was astounded, and said, "Could this perhaps be the Son of David?" But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, "This man drives out demons only by the power of Beelzebul, the prince of demons." (Mt 12,22-24). Here is why nothing more necessary to the man with the pure heart. The impure heart will always deceive man. It will tell him that the works of God are of the devil. But it will also tell him that its works that are of the devil are of God. Today many Christians are in this spiritual blindness because of their impure heart. From the impurity of their heart, they declare the good evil and the evil good, the light darkness and the darkness light. They attribute the works of God to the devil and the works of the devil to God. Those who are from the impure heart destroy the works of God in the name of God and always in the name of God they raise the works of the devil to works of God. If one does not turn the impure heart to pure heart, these things will always happen. Around Zechariah and Elizabeth there are people with the pure heart. They observe everything and wonder. "What, then, will this child be?" “What will the Lord do with him?” From the pure heart, the vision is according to truth.**

**Let us read the text of Lk 1,57-66**

**When the time arrived for Elizabeth to have her child she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy toward her, and they rejoiced with her. When they came on the eighth day to circumcise the child, they were going to call him Zechariah after his father, but his mother said in reply, "No. He will be called John." But they answered her, "There is no one among your relatives who has this name." So they made signs, asking his father what he wished him to be called. He asked for a tablet and wrote, "John is his name," and all were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened, his tongue freed, and he spoke blessing God. Then fear came upon all their neighbors, and all these matters were discussed throughout the hill country of Judea. All who heard these things took them to heart, saying, "What, then, will this child be?" For surely the hand of the Lord was with him.**

**These simple and humble people see that God works in the house of Zechariah. They see and confess. They do not know what the Lord is going to do. However, they know that the Lord will surely do great things through the child that is born. When the Lord is with a person, He always wants to bring salvation with this person. However, how the Lord will bring salvation, no one knows it yet. The Holy Spirit will reveal it some moments later through the proclamation of Zechariah. Here is why one always needs to add the great revelation to the vision with the pure eyes. The pure eyes see God agent and working in history. The great revelation says to us what the Lord will do with his presence in our history. Here is why the Sacred History is made of events and of words intimately connected. Neither the events without the Word, nor the Word without the events. John is event of the presence of God or of the descent of God in our life. The Word will tell us what he is called to do, what he will do for will of God, always supported, comforted, reinforced in the Holy Spirit, though. Where the Word lacks, the knowledge of the particular salvation that the Lord wants to create in our history through this event lacks. But when the Lord descends into our history, He always adds the Word to the events. Events and Word are always intimately connected when the Lord descends into history to bring salvation in it. May the Mother of God help us enter the mystery. The pure eyes are not enough. One needs God to add his Word. May the Lord send who will have to enlighten the events today.**