**WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 28 – OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS [A]**

**Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt. He stayed there until the death of Herod, that what the Lord had said through the prophet might be fulfilled, "Out of Egypt I called my son."**

**The Evangelist Matthew, always guided, enlightened, moved by the Holy Spirit, sees the fulfilment of two prophecies in the killing of the children in Bethlehem under order of Herod and in Jesus brought by Joseph with Mary, his Mother, first to Egypt and then from Egypt into the land of Judah. The first prophecy is about the weeping of Rachel who sees his children are torn from her. However, the prophecy is not of despair, it is instead of great sorrow filled with hope: “Thus says the LORD: In Ramah is heard the sound of moaning, of bitter weeping! Rachel mourns her children, she refuses to be consoled because her children are no more. Thus says the LORD: Cease your cries of mourning, wipe the tears from your eyes. The sorrow you have shown shall have its reward, says the LORD, they shall return from the enemy's land.** **There is hope for your future, says the LORD; your sons shall return to their own borders.” (Cf. Jer 31.1-30).**

**The second prophecy is taken from the prophet Hosea. Jesus is the true Son of God, his Only Begotten made flesh, who follows the way followed by the children of Israel not in the continuous rebellion, but in the perfect obedience to his Father. Jesus has never known the disobedience and never the rebellion: “When Israel was a child I loved him, out of Egypt I called my son. The more I called them, the farther they went from me, sacrificing to the Baals and burning incense to idols. Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk, who took them in my arms; I drew them with human cords, with bands of love; I fostered them like one who raises an infant to his cheeks; Yet, though I stooped to feed my child, they did not know that I was their healer. My heart is overwhelmed, my pity is stirred. I will not give vent to my blazing anger, I will not destroy Ephraim again; For I am God and not man, the Holy One present among you; I will not let the flames consume you. They shall follow the LORD, who roars like a lion; When he roars, his sons shall come frightened from the west, Out of Egypt they shall come trembling, like sparrows, from the land of Assyria, like doves; And I will resettle them in their homes, says the LORD.” (cf. Hos 11,1-11).**

**Let us read the text of Mt 2,13-18**

**When they had departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him." Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt. He stayed there until the death of Herod, that what the Lord had said through the prophet might be fulfilled, "Out of Egypt I called my son." When Herod realized that he had been deceived by the magi, he became furious. He ordered the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had ascertained from the magi. Then was fulfilled what had been said through Jeremiah the prophet: "A voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation; Rachel weeping for her children, and she would not be consoled, since they were no more."**

**Now it is righteous for us to ask: “Today do, we, his disciples, have a most perfect vision both of the Person of Jesus and of his mission? Which prophecy have we deprived Him of? Do we know the consequences that fall on the Church and on the entire humanity if we deprive Jesus the Lord of one only prophecy? Are we Christians working to clothe Jesus with every prophecy and of every truth intimately connected with it or are we working to undress Him of every prophecy and of every truth? Today history is manifesting to us, through our many words of disciples of Jesus that we are not working to clothe Christ Jesus with every prophecy and with every truth. Instead, we are working to undress Him of everything that is his by eternal will of the Father. Thus doing, we also unclothe the Church of her truth and her mission. Unclothing the Church we make the entire humanity poor, miserable, for we condemn it to an eternal slavery under the domination of sin and of death. Every man is from the truth of Christ for creation. He must be from the truth of Christ for redemption. From the truth of Christ for nature is for nature. From the truth of Christ for redemption, he must be for will. The will must be in turn from the Gospel and the Gospel from its intact and pure preaching. If we deprive Christ of his truth, man is deprived of his truth, too. Who is the man separated from the truth of Christ today? A fruit of the chance. A fruit of a monkey. A being with no truth and with no supernatural purpose. A being with no divine light that enlightens every cell of his body, of his spirit, of his soul. A condemned to the slavery of his passions. A slave of himself. A builder of slavery for every other man. Instead, we have a totally different man if we look at him from the truth of Christ Jesus and from his true mission. We raise a totally different man on earth if we announce to him the purest Gospel of Christ Jesus and invite him to let himself be made new creature in the water of the baptism through the work of the Holy Spirit. However, everything is from the faith of the disciple of Jesus. If he loses faith, the light of Christ is quenched in him and through his omission it is quenched on the entire Church and on the entire humanity. When a Christian becomes quenched light, it is a catastrophe for every other man. May the Mother of God and our Mother come to our rescue and let us enter the most pure truth of his Son.**