**FRIDAY DECEMBER 30 – OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS [A]**

**HOLY FAMILY**

**And because he had been warned in a dream, he departed for the region of Galilee. He went and dwelt in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazorean."**

**The Holy Spirit, saying through the mouth of the Evangelist Matthew, that “Jesus will be called Nazorean, namely Shoot” two prophecies are fulfilled through Him. Jesus is the Shoot that sprout from the stump of Jesse: “But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom. The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, A spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the LORD, and his delight shall be the fear of the LORD.** **On that day, the root of Jesse, set up as a signal for the nations, The Gentiles shall seek out, for his dwelling shall be glorious.” (Cf. Is 11,1-10). Jesus is the Shoot that takes all the sins of the world upon himself and expiates them in his great suffering: “See, my servant shall prosper, he shall be raised high and greatly exalted. Even as many were amazed at him - so marred was his look beyond that of man, and his appearance beyond that of mortals - So shall he startle many nations, because of him kings shall stand speechless; For those who have not been told shall see, those who have not heard shall ponder it.** **Who would believe what we have heard? To whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? He grew up like a sapling before him, like a shoot from the parched earth; There was in him no stately bearing to make us look at him, nor appearance that would attract us to him. He was spurned and avoided by men, a man of suffering, accustomed to infirmity, One of those from whom men hide their faces, spurned, and we held him in no esteem. Yet it was our infirmities that he bore, our sufferings that he endured, While we thought of him as stricken, as one smitten by God and afflicted. But he was pierced for our offenses, crushed for our sins, Upon him was the chastisement that makes us whole, by his stripes we were healed. We had all gone astray like sheep, each following his own way; But the LORD laid upon him the guilt of us all. Though he was harshly treated, he submitted and opened not his mouth; Like a lamb led to the slaughter or a sheep before the shearers, he was silent and opened not his mouth. Oppressed and condemned, he was taken away, and who would have thought any more of his destiny? When he was cut off from the land of the living, and smitten for the sin of his people, A grave was assigned him among the wicked and a burial place with evildoers, Though he had done no wrong nor spoken any falsehood. (But the LORD was pleased to crush him in infirmity.) If he gives his life as an offering for sin, he shall see his descendants in a long life, and the will of the LORD shall be accomplished through him. Because of his affliction he shall see the light in fullness of days; Through his suffering, my servant shall justify many, and their guilt he shall bear. Therefore I will give him his portion among the great, and he shall divide the spoils with the mighty, Because he surrendered himself to death and was counted among the wicked; And he shall take away the sins of many, and win pardon for their offenses. (Is 52,13-53,12). For every prophecy that is fulfilled, Christ Jesus is enlightened by a new truth. Adding prophecy to prophecy and truth to truth, in the end one will have a most perfect vision of whom Jesus the Lord is. If He had to be deprived even of one only prophecy, his person and his mission would be impoverished. If then no prophecy is attributed to him, any truth will be attributed either and Jesus will result deprived of every truth, both truth of his person and both truth of his mission. This is what is happening today.**

**Let us read the text of Mt 2,13-15.19-23**

**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 had died, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." He rose, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go back there.** **And because he had been warned in a dream, he departed for the region of Galilee. He went and dwelt in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazorean."**

**As Joseph entirely places his life at the service of the salvation of Christ, so today every Christian must place mind, heart, spirit, soul, all himself, all his energy, if needed even his blood should he pour to give righteous and holy service to the truth of Christ Jesus. Joseph must be the model for us, the example, if we want to place ourselves at the service of the truth of Jesus the Lord. Since he truly loved Jesus, even if he was very far, he could feel the odour of the evil that would have happened to Jesus and silently he prayed his God so that He manifested what was necessary to do for the salvation of Jesus. The Christian who loves Christ feels the odour of the evil against Christ as well and prays the Father to manifest to him how to save his Son.**