**MONDAY DECEMBER 02 – TIME AFTER CHRISTMAS**

**John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie."**

**We can be true testifiers of Christ Jesus if we have a perfect supernatural vision in the truth of Christ Jesus, according to the purest revelation in the Holy Spirit that must always rule our mind and our heart. This is not enough yet. We must also have a most pure knowledge of the truth of our person, according to the most pure truth of the revelation, as well, and also of the mission entrusted on us by the Father, in Christ, through the Holy Spirit, so that we fulfil it. John the Baptist knows who he is and what his mission is: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, because your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall name him John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of (the) Lord. He will drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will be filled with the holy Spirit even from his mother's womb, and he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. He will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah to turn the hearts of fathers toward children and the disobedient to the understanding of the righteous, to prepare a people fit for the Lord." And you, child, will be called prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give his people knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God by which the daybreak from on high will visit us to shine on those who sit in darkness and death's shadow, to guide our feet into the path of peace." (Lk 1,13-17.76-79).**

**To the most pure knowledge of the truth of Christ Jesus and of the truth of one’s own person, one needs a third truth: the moral truth or the honesty in the faithfulness to the mission entrusted on us. Since in the most holy faith, the mission is given by our conformation to Christ Jesus in the Sacraments of the Church and also by the spiritual gifts of which we are enriched by the Holy Spirit, being faithful to our sacramental and charismatic truth is a great honesty is for us. Since this truth is not the same for everyone, honesty is not the same for everyone, either. There is the honesty of the one who is Vicar of Christ and Successor of Peter, there is the honesty of the one who is vicar of Christ and successor of the Apostles, there is the honesty of the presbyter, collaborator of the episcopal order in the priesthood and in the ministry of the Word, there is the honesty of the Deacon, consecrated for the service and not for the priesthood, there is the honesty of the confirmed, called to make Christ present in the world, there is the honesty of the baptised, called to make the difference between the one who is true child of the Father in his Son Christ Jesus and the one who is not child of God yet for he has not gone through the water of thee baptism. Every member of the body of Christ has been made with a special truth and a special mission, with a particular spiritual gift so that his entire life is consecrated to the care of the interests of Christ and the interests of Christ are the interests of his Church, one, holy, Catholic, Apostolic. Every member of the body of Christ cares for the interests of man only if he cares for the interests of Christ, if he does not care for the interests of Christ, he might never care for the interests of one only man. He cannot care, for only in Christ, with Christ, through Christ, man turns back into his truth and only in Him, through Him, with Him, he might live the truth acquired thanks to the blood poured by his God and Lord from the cross.**

**Let us read the text of Jn 1,19-28**

**And this is the testimony of John. When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites (to him) to ask him, "Who are you?" he admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, "I am not the Messiah." So they asked him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?" He said: "I am 'the voice of one crying out in the desert, "Make straight the way of the Lord,"' as Isaiah the prophet said." Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah or Elijah or the Prophet?"** **John answered them,** **"I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.**

**John the Baptist, questioned about his truth, attests not to be, he, the Christ, the Messiah of the Lord. He attests that he is only the voice of one who cries out in the desert: "Make straight the way of the Lord,"' as Isaiah the prophet said." He also attests that he baptizes with water. Here is what he also attests: "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie.” This man that is among them is so high to make him, John, Prophet of the living God, unworthy to untie his sandal strap. He cannot be his servant, either, so high He is in greatness before God. The greatness of Christ Jesus is the greatness of God himself. In fact, He is the Eternal Son of the Father, his Word, that is God and before God in the beginning, sent by the Father in the flesh to fulfil our redemption. However, everything is fruit of the honesty of John the Baptist. The honesty is in its turn only fruit of the Holy Spirit who dwells in a heart and rules it. May the Mother of God make us honest for Her Son.**