**THURSDAY DECEMBER 05 – TIME AFTER CHRISTMAS**

**Jesus answered and said to him, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree?  You will see greater things than this." And he said to him, "Amen, amen, I say to you, you will see the sky opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."**

**Nathanael puts every heart before a truth that must always be respected, on pain of death of the Divine Revelation. The Lord creates a new event in the history of salvation. He sends his Only Begotten Son for the redemption of the world and He is made flesh through the work of the Holy Spirit in the most pure womb of the Virgin Mary. Jesus, as true Messiah of the Lord, is born in Bethlehem, but He lives in Nazareth. Philip says to Nathanael, profound connoisseur of the Scriptures, that he had met the Messiah, Jesus, son of Joseph, from Nazareth. Before such news, Nathanael is perplexed: “Can anything good come from Nazareth?” Even if the Scripture says otherwise, Philip replies, you come, see, realise. I know that this Jesus is a particular, singular, unique man. You come, see, you will meet him, you will help me in my discernment, you will confirm in my truth or you will tell me that I am mistaken. When the Lord is before a simple and pure heart – and the heart of Nathanael is simple and pure – He always comes to his rescue and sustains him in the journey of the pursuit so that he may come to the fullness of truth. In fact, Jesus comes to the rescue of Nathanael, unveiling his heart: "Here is a true Israelite. There is no duplicity in him." Nathanael is impressed and asks: “How do you know me?” Jesus’s reply is immediate:** **"Before Philip called you, I saw you under the fig tree." Nathanael knows that only a man in whom the Spirit of the Lord lives and dwells can know the heart of a man. If Jesus is true man of God, then what Philip has said to him is most pure truth. Her is his profession of faith:** **"Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel." Jesus confirms the confession of Nathanael, but He immediately adds that this is one of the truths. There are other ones that Nathanael does not know yet. In fact, he does not still know that Jesus is the unique Mediator between God and the entire universe, between heaven and earth:  "Amen, amen, I say to you, you will see the sky opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.” Thus Nathanael confirms the truth of the Scripture: the Lord teaches with his Holy Spirit those who seek Him with sincere heart. Thus in the Book of Wisdom: “Love justice, you who judge the earth; think of the LORD in goodness, and seek him in integrity of heart; Because he is found by those who test him not, and he manifests himself to those who do not disbelieve him. For perverse counsels separate a man from God, and his power, put to the proof, rebukes the foolhardy; Because into a soul that plots evil wisdom enters not, nor dwells she in a body under debt of sin. For the holy spirit of discipline flees deceit and withdraws from senseless counsels; and when injustice occurs it is rebuked.” (Wis 1,1-5). The beatitude of Jesus the Lord is fulfilled for Nathanael: “Blessed are the pure of heart for they will see God” (Mt 5,8). To those who seek the Lord with humbleness, with the will to let themselves be enlightened, comforted, corrected, introduced into truth by Him, always does the Lord come to rescue. The one who does not find the Lord must find the reasons in his heart. In this heart, unrighteousness, not righteousness, rules.**

**Let us read the text of Jn 1,43-51**

**The next day he decided to go to Galilee, and he found Philip. And Jesus said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the town of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one about whom Moses wrote in the law, and also the prophets, Jesus, son of Joseph, from Nazareth." But Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, "Here is a true Israelite. There is no duplicity in him." Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, I saw you under the fig tree." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel." Jesus answered and said to him, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree?  You will see greater things than this." And he said to him, "Amen, amen, I say to you, you will see the sky opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."**

**Instead, here what the Lord replies to the one who has the impure heart: “When certain elders of Israel came and sat down before me, the word of the LORD came to me: Son of man, these men have the memory of their idols fresh in their hearts, and they keep the occasion of their sin before them. Why should I allow myself to be consulted by them? Therefore speak with them, and say to them: Thus says the Lord GOD: If anyone of the house of Israel, holding the memory of his idols in his heart and keeping the occasion of his sin before him, has recourse to a prophet, I, the LORD, will be his answer in person because of his many idols. Thus would I bring back to their senses the house of Israel, who have become estranged from me through all their idols. Therefore say to the house of Israel: Thus says the Lord GOD: Return and be converted from your idols; turn yourselves away from all your abominations. For if anyone of the house of Israel or any alien resident in Israel is estranged from me, and holds the memory of his idols in his heart and keeps the occasion of his sin before him, yet asks a prophet to consult me for him, I, the LORD, will be his answer in person. I will turn against that man, and make of him an example and a byword. I will cut him off from the midst of my people. Thus you shall know that I am the LORD.” (Ez 14,1-8. Cf. Ez 20,1-7). May the Mother of God make us disciples with pure and simple heart.**