**FRIDAY DECEMBER 06 – EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

**'And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel.'**

**The prophecy of Micah not only reveals the place where the Messiah of the Lord would have been born one day. It also says why the Messiah comes and above all who the Messiah is: “He shall be peace”. Not only is He peace, but He is also the place where it is possible to live peace. One lives peace in his body, with his body, through his body, on the condition that one is entirely moved and led by the Holy Spirit. The house of the Word, in Him, with Him, through Him, is his Gospel. There are no other places where it is possible live or dwell in peace: “But you, Bethlehem-Ephrathah too small to be among the clans of Judah, From you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel; Whose origin is from of old, from ancient times. (Therefore the Lord will give them up, until the time when she who is to give birth has borne, And the rest of his brethren shall return to the children of Israel.) He shall stand firm and shepherd his flock by the strength of the LORD, in the majestic name of the LORD, his God; And they shall remain, for now his greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth; he shall be peace.” (Mi 5,1-4). Also: what does it mean that the origins are from of old from ancient times? The origins are from a particular ancient time. It is an ancient time before time and without time, for it is an eternal ancient time. We know that Jesus is the Only Son of the Father, made by Him before all centuries, Light from Light, true God from true God, made, not created, of the same substance of the Father. This ancient time is thus revealed by the Evangelist John: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.** **And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.** **From his fullness we have all received, grace in place of grace, because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. The only Son, God, who is at the Father's side, has revealed him.” (cf. Jn 1,1-18). Herod does not know the most pure truth of the one who is born. If he knew it, he would not be troubled. He would know that the Messiah who comes does not come to dethrone, kill, imprison, drag behind the triumphal chariot the kings, the emperors, the rulers of this world. He would know that his kingdom is not of this world: “So Pilate went back into the praetorium and summoned Jesus and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you say this on your own or have others told you about me?" Pilate answered, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom did belong to this world, my attendants (would) be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not here." So Pilate said to him, "Then you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say I am a king. For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." Pilate said to him, "What is truth?" (Jn 18,33-38). Knowing Christ according to most pure truth is a very serious moral obligation of all those who are called to proclaim the Gospel of life.**

**Let us read the text of Mt 2,1-12**

**When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.**

**God uses a powerful sign in heaven to call the Gentiles to faith. Today the star that must call to Christ Jesus is each of his disciple. For every disciple who fail the announcing, a good piece of land remains in the mistake and in ignorance. Ignorance and mistake produce immorality, great immorality. Today we have made the Gospel a miserable anthropology of immanence and every man is turning into a Herod for the elimination of Christ Jesus from our earth. May the Virgin Mary obtain for us the grace of reminding everyone the great mystery of her Son. He alone is the peace of humanity and only in Him one can live it.**