**TUESDAY JANUARY 10 – I WEEK O.T. [A]**

**In their synagogue was a man with an unclean spirit; he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are - the Holy One of God!" Jesus rebuked him and said, "Quiet! Come out of him!" The unclean spirit convulsed him and with a loud cry came out of him.**

**In the Holy Scripture of the Old Testament, only once one speaks of detachment of the unclean spirit from a person and this detachment has happened through the work of the Archangel Raphael: “When the boy left home, accompanied by the angel, the dog followed Tobiah out of the house and went with them. The travelers walked till nightfall, and made camp beside the Tigris River. Now when the boy went down to wash his feet in the river, a large fish suddenly leaped out of the water and tried to swallow his foot. He shouted in alarm. But the angel said to him, "Take hold of the fish and don't let it get away!" The boy seized the fish and hauled it up on the shore. The angel then told him: "Cut the fish open and take out its gall, heart, and liver, and keep them with you; but throw away the entrails. Its gall, heart, and liver make useful medicines." After the lad had cut the fish open, he put aside the gall, heart, and liver. Then he broiled and ate part of the fish; the rest he salted and kept for the journey. Afterward they traveled on together till they were near Media. The boy asked the angel this question: "Brother Azariah, what medicinal value is there in the fish's heart, liver, and gall?" He answered: "As regards the fish's heart and liver, if you burn them so that the smoke surrounds a man or a woman who is afflicted by a demon or evil spirit, the affliction will leave him completely, and no demons will ever return to him again. And as for the gall, if you rub it on the eyes of a man who has cataracts, blowing into his eyes right on the cataracts, his sight will be restored." (Tb 6,1-9). When they had finished eating and drinking, the girl's parents wanted to retire. They brought the young man out of the dining room and led him into the bedroom. At this point Tobiah, mindful of Raphael's instructions, took the fish's liver and heart from the bag which he had with him, and placed them on the embers for the incense. The demon, repelled by the odor of the fish, fled into Upper Egypt; Raphael pursued him there and bound him hand and foot. Then Raphael returned immediately. When the girl's parents left the bedroom and closed the door behind them, Tobiah arose from bed and said to his wife, "My love, get up. Let us pray and beg our Lord to have mercy on us and to grant us deliverance." She got up, and they started to pray and beg that deliverance might be theirs. He began with these words: "Blessed are you, O God of our fathers; praised be your name forever and ever. Let the heavens and all your creation praise you forever. You made Adam and you gave him his wife Eve to be his help and support; and from these two the human race descended. You said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone; let us make him a partner like himself.' Now, Lord, you know that I take this wife of mine not because of lust, but for a noble purpose. Call down your mercy on me and on her, and allow us to live together to a happy old age." They said together, "Amen, amen," and went to bed for the night.” (Tb 8,1-9). Jesus has not come to deliver only one man from the power of the devil, but all men. They are delivered through the faith in Him and in his Word and until one remains in Him and in his Word. As soon as one leaves Him and his Word, one returns in the earlier slavery.**

**Let us read the text of Mk 1,21b-28**

**Then they came to Capernaum, and on the sabbath he entered the synagogue and taught. The people were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes. In their synagogue was a man with an unclean spirit; he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are - the Holy One of God!" Jesus rebuked him and said, "Quiet! Come out of him!" The unclean spirit convulsed him and with a loud cry came out of him. All were amazed and asked one another, "What is this? A new teaching with authority. He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him." His fame spread everywhere throughout the whole region of Galilee.**

**Today it is righteous that we highlight a most pure truth. The unclean spirit or spirit of evil does not want to take possess of the body of man. He has very little interest for the body. Moreover, this possession is visible and brings him great damages. Today he has decided to conquer the mind of every man and to rule his thoughts. Ruling the mind and the thoughts of every man, he has the government of the world. However, his is a government of darkness, of falsity, of lie, of every unrighteousness. The unclean spirit wants the mind and the thoughts of the one who rules and of the one who is ruled, he wants the mind and thoughts of the one who offends and of the one who is offended, he wants the mind and the thoughts of the one who is placed up in the Church and of the one who is placed down. He wants the mind and the thoughts of the one who preaches the Gospel and the one who listens to the Gospel. Of the one who preaches the Gospel so that he does not preach the Gospel of Christ Jesus. Of the one who listens to the Word of Christ Jesus so that he does not put it in his heart. Whoever wants to save himself from the conquest of the mind and of the thoughts must place his dwelling in the mind of Christ and in the thoughts of Christ that are all written in the prophetic Scriptures, in the same way as Christ overcame the devil for his mind and his thoughts were in the mind of God and in the thoughts written for Him in the Law, in the Prophets, in the Psalms. The non-preaching of the Gospel attests that today we have been conquered by the unclean spirit. May the Mother of Jesus deliver us from every possession.**