**15 JANUARY 2023 – II SUNDAY O.T. [A]**

**I did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain, he is the one who will baptize with the holy Spirit.' Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God.**

**Becoming true body of Christ, being born of water a d Holy Spirit, the Christian takes the life of Christ as his life in order to give full life to it in the same way as that of Christ Jesus has been full life. Here is why one needs to know who Christ Jesus is. A Christian who does not know Christ does not know himself. Likewise, also a community of disciples of Christ that does not know Christ does not know itself. If the Christian does not know himself, he will never life Christ's life to give it fullness of life with his life.**

**Christ Jesus is the Lamb of God, the one who takes away the sin of the world. He takes away the sin in taking it entirely upon Himself and nailing it in his body on the cross. This truth is thus revealed by the Apostle Paul: “For in him dwells the whole fullness of the deity bodily, and you share in this fullness in him, who is the head of every principality and power. In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not administered by hand, by stripping off the carnal body, with the circumcision of Christ. You were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. And even when you were dead (in) transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, he brought you to life along with him, having forgiven us all our transgressions; obliterating the bond against us, with its legal claims, which was opposed to us, he also removed it from our midst, nailing it to the cross; despoiling the principalities and the powers, he made a public spectacle of them, leading them away in triumph by it.” (Col 2,9-15). The Christian in Christ, with Christ, through Christ, is called to also expiate the sin of the world with the offering of his body to God: “I urge you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship. Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.” (Rm 12,1-2). The Christian morality is not a quantity of norms to observe. Instead, it is full conformation to the most holy body of Christ and the body is most holy if he obeys every Word that has been given to us to reach the highest holiness. A body of sin cannot be offered to God and our vocation that wants us to be “Lamb of God in Christ, with Christ, through Christ”, becomes vain. Today the Christian is renouncing to this most holy mission. With his devilish wisdom, he has declared the non-existence of sin. If sin does not exist, Christ Jesus is useless and the Christian is useless. The Church is useless. Our life is indifferent to God.**

 **Affirming this monstrous falsity, the Christian affirms not to dwell any longer in Christ as his true body. Jesus is the One on whom the Spirit places himself and remains. Since the Spirit eternally remains in the body of Christ that is the Church, the Christian, in speaking against the truth of the Spirit and denying it, attests that the Spirit of the Lord does not remain in him. Whoever utters falsity and lie attests not to dwell in the Holy Spirit: “Therefore, I tell you that nobody speaking by the spirit of God says, "Jesus be accursed." And no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the holy Spirit.” (1Cor 12,3). No falsity will ever come from the one in whom the Holy Spirit remains. Spirit and truth are one only thing. The one who departs from the Spirit will depart from the truth.**

**Let us read the text of Jn 1,29-34**

**The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. He is the one of whom I said, 'A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.' I did not know him, but the reason why I came baptizing with water was that he might be made known to Israel." John testified further, saying, "I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from the sky and remain upon him.** **I did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain, he is the one who will baptize with the holy Spirit.' Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God."**

**Christ Jesus is the One who baptises with the Holy Spirit. Whoever becomes body of Christ must baptise with the Holy Spirit as well. How will he baptise with the Holy Spirit? In the same way as the Virgin Mary has baptised in the house of Zechariah: “During those days Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."(Lk 1,39-45). Without this daily baptism of the disciple of Jesus, the other baptism will always bear few fruits. May the Mother of God obtain for us the grace of becoming true image of Christ Jesus in the Church.**