**WEDNESDAY JANUARY 18 – II WEEK O.T. [A]**

**Then he said to them, "Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath rather than to do evil, to save life rather than to destroy it?" But they remained silent.**

**Every man has been created by God clothed with discernment so that his rationality may always be used for the truest, the most righteous, the holiest good. Here is what the Holy Spirit reveals about the creation of man: “The LORD from the earth created man, and in his own image he made him. Limited days of life he gives him and makes him return to earth again. He endows man with a strength of his own, and with power over all things else on earth. He puts the fear of him in all flesh, and gives him rule over beasts and birds. He forms men's tongues and eyes and ears, and imparts to them an understanding heart. With wisdom and knowledge he fills them; good and evil he shows them. He looks with favor upon their hearts, and shows them his glorious works, That they may describe the wonders of his deeds and praise his holy name. He has set before them knowledge, a law of life as their inheritance; An everlasting covenant he has made with them, his commandments he has revealed to them. His majestic glory their eyes beheld, his glorious voice their ears heard. He says to them, "Avoid all evil"; each of them he gives precepts about his fellow men.**

**Their ways are ever known to him, they cannot be hidden from his eyes. Over every nation he places a ruler, but the LORD'S own portion is Israel. All their actions are clear as the sun to him, his eyes are ever upon their ways. Their wickedness cannot be hidden from him; all of their sins are before the LORD. A man's goodness God cherishes like a signet ring, a man's virtue, like the apple of his eye. Later he will rise up and repay them, and requite each one of them as they deserve. But to the penitent he provides a way back, he encourages those who are losing hope!**

**Return to the LORD and give up sin, pray to him and make your offenses few. Turn again to the Most High and away from sin, hate intensely what he loathes; Who in the nether world can glorify the Most High in place of the living who offer their praise? No more can the dead give praise than those who have never lived; they glorify the LORD who are alive and well. How great the mercy of the LORD, his forgiveness of those who return to him! The like cannot be found in men, for not immortal is any son of man. Is anything brighter than the sun? Yet it can be eclipsed. How obscure then the thoughts of flesh and blood! God watches over the hosts of highest heaven, while all men are dust and ashes.” (Sir 17,1-32). Those who, questioned by Jesus, remain silent attest nothing but the denial of their true humanity. If they remain silent because of fear of the scribes and of the Pharisees, then they attest that they lack every freedom in professing the true faith. They are slaves and prisoners of the thought of man. They live a faith enslaved to the will of the people who have deprived the faith of her truth and of each of her splendour of light and of divine charity, mercy, hope, consolation, peace. The true faith is professed before every man even at the price of one’s own blood.**

**Let us read the text of Mk 3,1-6**

**Again he entered the synagogue. There was a man there who had a withered hand. They watched him closely to see if he would cure him on the sabbath so that they might accuse him. He said to the man with the withered hand, "Come up here before us."** **Then he said to them, "Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath rather than to do evil, to save life rather than to destroy it?" But they remained silent. Looking around at them with anger and grieved at their hardness of heart, he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out and his hand was restored. The Pharisees went out and immediately took counsel with the Herodians against him to put him to death.**

**Instead, those who take counsel to put Jesus to death, come to bring the true Word of his Father and, consequently, the true faith, have overcome not only the limit of evil, but the limit of their humanity. From the human nature they moved into the devilish nature, from children of Adam they have become children of devil, for only the devil wants the cancellation of the true faith in every heart and he alone wants the elimination, even physical, of the ones who bring the true Word of God and the true faith in the hearts. Today one eliminates the true Word in the name of the Word of God and one kills the true prophets in the name of a false prophecy announced as most pure love for the truth of Christ and of his Gospel. When a child of Satan meets a child of the light, the child of Satan will have no peace until the child of the light is not put to death either with spiritual death on the gallows of calumny and of every slander, or with physical death, inflicted in the name of God and of his Word. May the Mother of God obtain for us the grace of never overcome the limits of our humanity.**