**But now we must celebrate and rejoice**

**SATURDAY MARCH 6 (Lk 15,1-3.11-32)**

Who is the Lord? He is the God rich in mercy and piety, the one who seeks man to lead him on the right path of justice and truth. God did not seek man only with the prophets or with Christ Jesus or with his Apostles, He sought him personally from the first instant of creation. To man and woman, he manifested the way of life. Even in Cain has revealed an obligation to govern the instincts of pity: *"In the course of time Cain brought` an offering to the LORD from the fruit of the soil, while Abel, For His part, brought` one of the best firstlings of His flock. The LORD looked with favor* *on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not. Cain greatly resented this and was crestfallen. So the LORD said to Cain: "Why are you so resentful and crestfallen?**If you do well, you can hold up your head; but if not, sin is a demon lurking at the door: his urge is toward you, yet you can be his master. " (Gen 4: 3-7).*God does not enjoy the death of those who die. He rejoices when a sinner is converted and returns to obedience to His Word. Pharisees and scribes instead murmur and despise Jesus because he seeks and welcomes sinners, imitating his Father in everything.

*The tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to him, but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." So to them he addressed this parable : "A man had two sons , and the younger son said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of your estate that should come to me.' So the father divided the property between them. After a few days, the younger son collected all his belongings and set off to a distant country where he squandered his inheritance on a life of dissipation. When he had freely spent everything, a severe famine struck that country, and he found himself in dire need. So he hired himself out to one of the local citizens who sent him to his farm to tend the swine. And he longed to eat his fill of the pods on which the swine fed, but nobody gave him any. Coming to his senses he thought, 'How many of my father's hired workers have more than enough food to eat, but here am I, dying from hunger. I shall get up and go to my father and I shall say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers. "' So he got up and went back to his father. While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him. His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.' But his father ordered his servants, 'Quickly bring the finest robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Take the fattened calf and slaughter it. Then let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found. ' Then the celebration began. Now the older son had been out in the field and, on his way back, as he neared the house, he heard the sound of music and dancing. He called one of the servants and asked what this might mean. The servant said to him, 'Your brother has returned and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.' He became angry, and when he refused to enter the house, his father came out and pleaded with him. He said to his father in reply, 'Look, all these years I served you and not once did I disobey your orders; yet you never gave me even a young goat to feast on with my friends. But when your son returns who swallowed up your property with prostitutes, for him you slaughter the fattened calf. ' He said to him, 'My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours. But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found. '"*

True religion is to go in search of those who have abandoned the path of salvation and also looking for those who have never known it, so that they may return to the obedience and truth that come from God. Abandoning a sinner to his spiritual and then eternal death does not belong to the true religion. God does not want anyone to get lost and so must every true worshiper of His. Not only the sinner must be sought, when one returns to the Father’s house a great feast must be celebrated. This man has passed from death to life and for every resurrection one must rejoice. False religion instead criticizes and murmurs.

Mother of the Redemption, Angels, Saints, make every man become a disciple of Jesus.