**Because he did this on the Sabbath**

**TUESDAY MARCH 16 (Jn 5, 1-16)**

We know that God listens to who is his friend, his faithful one. It is this teaching that comes from both Nicodemus and the man who was blind since his birth than healed by Jesus: *"Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. He came to Jesus at night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you are doing unless God is with him."(Jn 3, 1-2). “So a second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him," Give God the praise!* *We know that this man is a sinner. "He replied," If he is a sinner, I do not know. One thing I do know is that I was blind and now I see. "So they said to him," What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes? " He answered them," I told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too? " They ridiculed him and said," You are that man's disciple; we are disciples of Moses! We know that God spoke to Moses, but we do not know where this one is from. " The man answered and said to them," This is what is so amazing, that you do not know where he is from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if one is devout and does his will, he listens to him. It is unheard of that anyone ever opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he would not be able to do anything. "They answered and said to him," You were born totally in sin, and are you trying to teach us?" Then they threw him out." (Jn 9, 24-34).*The simplest and most elementary of faiths is enough to know that God does not grant such portentous signs to a man who disobeys his commandments. Furthermore, it must be added that Jesus did not do any work on the Sabbath. He only said a simple phrase: “*Get up, take your stretcher and walk*.” Ever since the world began, it has never been heard that speaking on the Sabbath day was forbidden by the Lord. The synagogues are places where to hear the Law and speak about it? Yet so many vain words were said and no one accused another of violating the Lord’s day or desecrating it.

*After this, there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem at the Sheep (Gate) a pool called in Hebrew Bethesda, with five porticoes . One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been ill for a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be well?" The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; while I am on my way, someone else gets down there before me." Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your mat, and walk." Immediately the man became well, took up his mat, and walked. Now that day was a sabbath. So the Jews said to the man who was cured, "It is the sabbath, and it is not lawful for you to carry your mat." He answered them, "The man who made me well told me, 'Take up your mat and walk.'" They asked him, "Who is the man who told you, 'Take it up and walk'?" The man who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had slipped away, since there was a crowd there. After this Jesus found him in the temple area and said to him, "Look, you are well; do not sin any more, so that nothing worse may happen to you." The man went and told the Jews that Jesus was the one who had made him well. Therefore, the Jews began to persecute Jesus because he did this on a sabbath.*

The opposition to Christ on the part of the Pharisees arises from the fact that they had abolished the Law of the Lord, his Commandments and had replaced the Word of God with their word or their tradition. The conflict is consequently between the true Word of God and the word of men. The Pharisees had raised on earth a religion made up of external precepts, almost all in the service of their glory and their sin. Instead, Jesus brought to earth the religion of listening to the Word of the Father, the true Word of the Father and of obedience to it. Today we find ourselves in the same condition in which Jesus found himself. Preaching the true Word of God today generates a clash with the word of men. We are accused of upsetting the conscience, of putting anxiety and fear in hearts. It is preferred to send a person into eternal perdition, rather than forming him in the Word.

Mother of the Redemption, Angels, Saints, make us heralds of the true Word.