**For which of these are you trying to stone me?**

**FRIDAY MARCH 26 (Jn 10, 31-42)**

The Jews accuse Jesus of idolatry and for this sin there was the sentence of death by stoning. Thus says Deuteronomy: *"If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer who promises you a sign or wonder, urging you to follow other gods, whom you have not known, and to serve them: even though the sign or wonder he has foretold you comes to pass, pay no attention to the words of that prophet or that dreamer; for the LORD, your God, is testing you to learn whether you really love him with all your heart and with all your soul But that prophet or that dreamer shall be put to death, because, in order to lead you astray from the way which the LORD, your God, has directed you to take. "If your own full brother, or your son or daughter, or your beloved wife, or your intimate friend, entices you secretly to serve other gods, whom you and your fathers have not known, gods of any other nations, near at hand or far away, from one end of the earth to the other: do not yield to him or listen to him, nor look with pity upon him, to spare or shield him, but kill him. Your hand shall be the first raised to slay him; the rest of the people shall join in with you. You shall stone him to death, because he sought to lead you astray from the LORD, your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that place of slavery. And all Israel, hearing of it, shall fear and never again do such evil as this in your midst. "If, in any of the cities which the LORD, your God, gives you to dwell in, you hear it said that certain scoundrels have sprung up among you and have led astray the inhabitants of their city to serve other gods whom you have not known, you must inquire carefully into the matter and investigate it thoroughly. If you find that it is true and an established fact that this abomination has been committed in your midst, you shall put the inhabitants of that city to the sword, dooming the city and all life that is in it, even its cattle, to the sword. " (Cfr. Dt 13,1-19).*How will Jesus defend himself against an accusation that could lead to an immediate stoning. He makes use of the Psalm in which is openly stated: *"I said," you are gods, all of you children, but certainly die like men, you will fall like all the powerful" (Ps 82 (81) 6-7).*If every man is son of the Most High, Jesus too is a son of the Most High. With this argument from the Psalm, the death sentence is delayed, but only for a few days. In fact, they want to arrest him, but Jesus runs away from their hands.

*The Jews again picked up rocks to stone him. Jesus answered them, "I have shown you many good works from my Father. For which of these are you trying to stone me?" The Jews answered him, "We are not stoning you for a good work but for blasphemy. You, a man, are making yourself God." Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your law, 'I said," You are gods "'? If it calls them gods to whom the word of God came, and scripture cannot be set aside, can you say that the one whom the Father has consecrated and sent into the world blasphemes because I said, 'I am the Son of God'? If I do not perform my Father's works, do not believe me; but if I perform them, even if you do not believe me, believe the works, so that you may realize (and understand) that the Father is in me and I am in the Father. " (Then) they tried again to arrest him; but he escaped from their power. He went back across the Jordan to the place where John first baptized, and there he remained. Many came to him and said, "John performed no sign, but everything John said about this man was true." And many there began to believe in him.*

The Pharisees decided it. Jesus must die. If one accusation is not tenable, another will be found. If it's not true, they'll make it up. But Jesus must die. It is their sentence. However, Jesus will die only on that day and hour that are written on the scroll of his life. Until that day he will have to say the words of the Father and do his works. The Holy Spirit will guide him so that in the mission he is perfect in everything.

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