**The house was filled with the fragrance of the oil**

**HOLY MONDAY MARCH 29 (Jn 12, 1-11)**

Jesus is the purest perfume that flows from the truth, light, mercy, compassion, forgiveness, justice of the Father. For Him the whole house of the world, indeed of the universe, of the earth and of the sky must smell the perfume of the Father. Without Christ the Lord in the universe there is only the nauseating smell of sin and death. What Christ is for the Father, every disciple of His must be with regard to Christ Jesus. The disciple too is called to become the perfume of Christ. Thus, the Apostle Paul in the Second Letter to the Corinthians: *“But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ and manifests through us the odor of the knowledge of him in every place.* *For we are the aroma of Christ for God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, to the latter an odor of death that leads to death, to the former an odor of life that leads to life. Who is qualified for this? For we are not like the many who trade on the word of God; but as out of sincerity, indeed as from God and in the presence of God, we speak in Christ.*" *(2Cor 2, 14-17).*The same Apostle, in the Letter to the Philippians, adds that works of charity are a true perfume pleasing to the Lord: *“Still, it was kind of you to share in my distress. You Philippians indeed know that at the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, not a single church shared with me in an account of giving and receiving, except you alone. For even when I was at Thessalonica you sent me something for my needs, not only once but more than once. It is not that I am eager for the gift; rather, I am eager for the profit that accrues to your account. I have received full payment and I abound. I am very well supplied because of what I received from you through Epaphroditus, "a fragrant aroma," an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. My God will fully supply whatever you need, in accord with his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father, glory forever and ever. Amen.*" *(Phil 4, 14-20).*But is there a higher work of charity than that performed by Christ Jesus who immolates himself on the altar of the cross for the redemption of the world?

*Six days before Passover Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. They gave a dinner for him there, and Martha served, while Lazarus was one of those reclining at table with him. Mary took a liter of costly perfumed oil made from genuine aromatic nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and dried them with her hair; the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. Then Judas the Iscariot, one (of) his disciples, and the one who would betray him, said, "Why was this oil not sold for three hundred days' wages* *and given to the poor? " He said this not because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief and held the money bag and used to steal the contributions. So Jesus said," Leave her alone. Let her keep this for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me. " (The) large crowd of the Jews found out that he was there and came, not only because of Jesus, but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. And the chief priests plotted to kill Lazarus too, because many of the Jews were turning away and believing in Jesus because of him.*

In the Old Testament the holocaust was a true perfume pleasing to the Lord: *"If his holocaust offering is from the flock, that is, a sheep or a goat, he must bring a male without blemish. This he shall slaughter before the LORD at the north side of the altar. Then Aaron's sons, the priests, shall splash its blood on the sides of the altar. When the offerer has cut it up into pieces, the priest shall lay these, together with the head and suet, on top of the wood and the fire on the altar. The inner organs and the shanks, however, the offerer shall first wash with water. The priest shall offer them up and then burn the whole offering on the altar as a holocaust, a sweet-smelling oblation to the LORD.*" *(Lev 1, 10-13).* Jesus, on the altar of the cross, is the highest and only true sacrifice that takes away the sin of the world. The consuming fire is the great love for the Father and for his brothers to bring to salvation. The Father welcomes this sweet perfume and the whole house of the world, for the preaching of the Apostles, smells it and if he wants, he can convert to the living and true God, abandoning all idolatry. The gesture made by Mary is highly prophetic. Reveal the purest truth of Christ the Lord. He is the victim immolated for our eternal life.

Mother of the Redemption, Angels, Saints, make us perfume of Christ for the world.