***By what authority are you doing these things***

**SATURDAY MAY 29 (Mk 11,27-33)**

Power is natural and even supernatural, it comes from God directly but also indirectly through other men. Whoever exercises a power of any nature or origin, must always carry it out with supreme wisdom and in the fear of the Lord, as very pure obedience to his will. Thus teaches the Book of Wisdom: *“Hear, therefore, kings, and understand; learn, you magistrates of the earth's expanse! Hearken, you who are in power over the multitude and lord it over throngs of peoples! Because authority was given you by the LORD and sovereignty by the Most High, who shall probe your works and scrutinize your counsels! Because, though you were ministers of his kingdom, you judged not rightly, and did not keep the law, nor walk according to the will of God, Terribly and swiftly shall he come against you, because judgment is stern for the exalted -For the lowly may be pardoned out of mercy but the mighty shall be mightily put to the test. For the Lord of all shows no partiality, nor does he fear greatness, Because he himself made the great as well as the small, and he provides for all alike; but for those in power a rigorous scrutiny impends. To you, therefore, O princes, are my words addressed that you may learn wisdom and that you may not sin. "(Wis 6, 1-9).*A power exercised without wisdom and fear of the Lord is transformed into will. It is no longer exercised for the greater good, but for the evil.

On power Jesus replies to Pilate: *"Now when Pilate heard this statement, he became even more afraid, and went back into the praetorium and said to Jesus," Where are you from? " Jesus did not answer him. So Pilate said to him, "Do you not speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you and I have power to crucify you?" Jesus answered (him), "You would have no power over me if it had not been given to you from above. For this reason the one who handed me over to you has the greater sin. " "(Jn 19, 8-11).*While St. Paul exhorts Christians in this way: *“Let every person be subordinate to the higher authorities, for there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been established by God. Therefore, whoever resists authority opposes what God has appointed, and those who oppose it will bring judgment upon themselves. For rulers are not a cause of fear to good conduct, but to evil. Do you wish to have no fear of authority? Then do what is good and you will receive approval from it, for it is a servant of God for your good. But if you do evil, be afraid, for it does not bear the sword without purpose; it is the servant of God to inflict wrath on the evildoer. Therefore, it is necessary to be subject not only because of the wrath but also because of conscience. This is why you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, devoting themselves to this very thing.Pay to all their dues, taxes to whom taxes are due, toll to whom toll is due, respect to whom respect is due, honor to whom honor is due. "(Rm 13, 1-7).*Before authority, the Christian responds with obedience, provided that it does not contradict the Law of his Lord and God. In this case he submits to authority by suffering martyrdom.

*They returned once more to Jerusalem. As he was walking in the temple area, the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders approached him and said to him, "By what authority are you doing these things? Or who gave you this authority to do them?" Jesus said to them, "I shall ask you one question. Answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things. Was John's baptism of heavenly or of human origin? Answer me." They discussed this among themselves and said, "If we say, 'Of heavenly origin,' he will say, '(Then) why did you not believe him?' But shall we say, 'Of human origin'? " - they feared the crowd, for they all thought John really was a prophet. Then Jesus said to them, "Neither shall I tell you by what authority I do these things."*

We know that Jesus’ authority comes from the Father. If Jesus had revealed this origin, he would have been stoned instantly. The Holy Spirit comes to his aid. Asks a question. They do not answer, and Jesus is exempted from giving his answer. The truth must always be told with utmost prudence. Often it is not needed because the heart is made of stone.

Mother of the Redemption, Angels, Saints, make us extremely prudent, wise, attentive.