**MONDAY JANUARY 03 – AFTER CHRISTMAS [C]**

**“I did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain, he is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God."**

**How does one come to the knowledge of Christ Jesus? Only by divine revelation. The divine revelation may happen by vision or also by listening of a Word addressed by the Lord or even by inspiration of the Holy Spirit. John the Baptist knows who the One who baptises with the Holy Spirit is. He knows it as the one who has sent him to baptise, namely, the heavenly Father, has said to him: 'On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain, he is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' John has seen the Spirit come down and remain on Jesus. Not on other ones. Jesus is the one who baptises with the Holy Spirit. When will Jesus baptise with the Holy Spirit? After having been risen from dead. From his dead body on the wood of the cross he will pour forth water and blood, the Holy Spirit and the grace. After his glorious resurrection, he will breathe his Holy Spirit upon his Apostles and he will give them the mission of baptising with Holy Spirit, them too.**

**Here is what the Apostle John sees and says: “Now since it was preparation day, in order that the bodies might not remain on the cross on the sabbath, for the sabbath day of that week was a solemn one, the Jews asked Pilate that their legs be broken and they be taken down. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and then of the other one who was crucified with Jesus. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs, but one soldier thrust his lance into his side, and immediately blood and water flowed out. An eyewitness has testified, and his testimony is true; he knows that he is speaking the truth, so that you also may (come to) believe. For this happened so that the scripture passage might be fulfilled: "Not a bone of it will be broken." And again another passage says: "They will look upon him whom they have pierced."(Jn 19, 31-37)** **On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. (Jesus) said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." (Jn 20, 19-23) In this vision, before John the Baptist, then of John, Apostle of the Lord and Evangelist, is the most pure truth not only of Christ Jesus, but also of the Apostles of the Lord. They are the ones, today, who must baptise with the Holy Spirit. If they do not baptise, or teach that baptism is useless, they do nothing but affirming that Christ is useless for man to be redeemed and saved. They affirm that salvation can be fulfilled without Christ Jesus, since it can be fulfilled without baptising with the Spirit of Christ Jesus. Thus they also affirm that Christ’s death has been useless and vain work. One only word of falsity and one declares God useless, Christ Jesus useless, the Holy Spirit useless, the Church useless.**

**Let us read the text of Jn 1,29-34**

**The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. He is the one of whom I said, 'A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.' I did not know him, but the reason why I came baptizing with water was that he might be made known to Israel." John testified further, saying, "I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from the sky and remain upon him. I did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain, he is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God."**

**John the Baptist also gives another fundamental, essential testimony with the Holy Spirit. Who is Jesus for the heavenly Father? “Jesus is the lamb who takes away the sins of the world.” Who is Jesus, yet? He is the one who is before John. The before is not temporary, though. Jesus is the Eternal Word who became flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary and came to dwell among us filled with grace and of truth. This truth is essence, substance, flesh and blood of Christ Jesus. He alone has the power on earth to forgive the sins and he has given this power to his Apostles. If the Apostles do not forgive sins, they are not forgiven. Who is the Apostle of Jesus, then? The one who must baptise every man with the Holy Spirit and must forgive the sins to every man.**

**If the Apostle of the Lord does not live these two ministries and is devoted to other things, he is responsible of all those who are not baptised with the Holy Spirit and he is also responsible of all those whom he has not forgiven his sins. Here is why the Apostle of the Lord cannot deal with other things, neither within the body of the Church and nor within the body of humanity. He will have to be totally handed over to the ministry of the Word since the mystery of Christ Jesus is made known to every man and once Christ is received in heart and in mind, baptise with the Holy Spirit and forgive the sins. The Apostle of the Lord is Christ who continues his mission of salvation in the world today. May the Mother of God help us understand and live this great mystery of Jesus.**