**FRIDAY MARCH 04 – AFTER THE SACRED ASHES [C]**

**Jesus answered them, "Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast.**

**Let us observe the divine wisdom of Jesus that always makes Him capable of finding that right reply to give to those who question Him. He does not betray the truth, He does not modify, does not transform it. However, He cannot even tell it in its purity and holiness. Hearts must be calmed down, though. Leaving a heart not calmed down is turning his mouth in a Gehenna from which every falsity and lie about Jesus the Lord comes out. Now, Christ needs neither lie, nor calumny, neither falsity and not even rumours. This is the reasons why He must reply by the highest wisdom in the Holy Spirit. Jesus knows all the power of destruction that is in the wicked and evil word of men. Here is what both the Sirach and the Apostle James teach us:** “**Cursed be gossips and the double-tongued, for they destroy the peace of many. A meddlesome tongue subverts many, and makes them refugees among the peoples; It destroys walled cities, and overthrows powerful dynasties. A meddlesome tongue can drive virtuous women from their homes and rob them of the fruit of their toil; Whoever heeds it has no rest, nor can he dwell in peace. A blow from a whip raises a welt, but a blow from the tongue smashes bones; Many have fallen by the edge of the sword, but not as many as by the tongue. Happy he who is sheltered from it, and has not endured its wrath; Who has not borne its yoke nor been fettered with its chain; For its yoke is a yoke of iron and its chains are chains of bronze! Dire is the death it inflicts, besides which even the nether world is a gain; It will not take hold among the just nor scorch them in its flame, But those who forsake the LORD will fall victims to it, as it burns among them unquenchably! It will hurl itself against them like a lion; like a panther, it will tear them to pieces. As you hedge round your vineyard with thorns, set barred doors over your mouth; As you seal up your silver and gold, so balance and weigh your words. Take care not to slip by your tongue and fall victim to your foe waiting in ambush.” (Si, 28, 13-26)**

**“Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you realize that we will be judged more strictly, for we all fall short in many respects. If anyone does not fall short in speech, he is a perfect man, able to bridle his whole body also. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we also guide their whole bodies. It is the same with ships: even though they are so large and driven by fierce winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot's inclination wishes. In the same way the tongue is a small member and yet has great pretensions. Consider how small a fire can set a huge forest ablaze. The tongue is also a fire. It exists among our members as a world of malice, defiling the whole body and setting the entire course of our lives on fire, itself set on fire by Gehenna. For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. This need not be so, my brothers. Does a spring gush forth from the same opening both pure and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers, produce olives, or a grapevine figs? Neither can salt water yield fresh.” (Jm 3, 1-12)**

**Let us read the text of Mt 9,14-15**

**Then the disciples of John approached him and said, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast (much), but your disciples do not fast?" Jesus answered them, "Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast.**

**Today this wisdom and this intelligence in the Holy Spirit are lacking in the disciples of Jesus. What do we realise it from? The fact that the wisdom, the intelligence, the science of the Holy Spirit are lacking in the disciples of Jesus is deduced by the words they say. They utter words, but they do not measure the fruits their words produce in history. An example is enough to confirm that many Christians are deprived of the Holy Spirit. If we say that all religions are way of salvation, we do nothing but declaring that Christ Jesus is as every other man. Now, Christ Jesus is the Creator and the Saviour of every man. We also say that the Church is useless so that man comes to the knowledge of truth. If Christ is useless and the Church is useless, what is the use of the Christian? Nothing. He can abandon his religion and walk through other equally good ways.**

**If Christ Jesus had said that He has come to teach the most pure truth of the Father and had declared a fast not lived by the obedience to the Word of the Lord as useless, He would have unleash a war against Him. Instead, He, filled with Holy Spirit and with grace, gives a word of great wisdom, the hearts were calmed down and He can go on in his teaching. If it is not necessary to assert the truth, since it is irrelevant to the mission, it must never be affirmed. Instead, if truth belongs to the mission, then it must be affirmed with decision in the Holy Spirit. May the Mother of Jesus come and teach us the great wisdom.**