**MONDAY MARCH 28 – FOURTH WEEK OF LENT [C]**

**The father realized that just at that time Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live," and he and his whole household came to believe.**

**Faith has an obligatory path to fulfil. It must pass from its imperfection to its perfection. This is why every man is called to walk from faith to faith, from the incipient faith to the perfect faith, from the barely sketched faith to the full faith. The royal official has a son who suffers from an illness that leads to death. This is history. He has faith that if he goes to Jesus and asks for his healing, this will happen. This faith is not in the Word of Jesus, yet, that is the only one through which we can enter the true life, turning our history from history of darkness into history of light and from history of sin into history of grace and of truth. Jesus would want this faith, without passing through the way of the miracle. He has already performed many miracles so far. Other ones are of no use. He would want this faith, He asks for it. But man is deaf to his voice.**

**Man wishes the miracles for the body. He does not care about the rest. This faith only in the miracles is openly condemned by Him many times:** “**Then he began to reproach the towns where most of his mighty deeds had been done, since they had not repented. "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty deeds done in your midst had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would long ago have repented in sackcloth and ashes. But I tell you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you. And as for you, Capernaum: 'Will you be exalted to heaven? You will go down to the netherworld.' For if the mighty deeds done in your midst had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom on the day of judgment than for you." (Mt 11,20-24)** “**When they came to the crowd a man approached, knelt down before him, and said, "Lord, have pity on my son, for he is a lunatic and suffers severely; often he falls into fire, and often into water. I brought him to your disciples, but they could not cure him." Jesus said in reply, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long will I be with you? How long will I endure you? Bring him here to me." Jesus rebuked him and the demon came out of him, and from that hour the boy was cured.” (Mt 17, 14-18) However, Jesus always lets himself be overcome by the great compassion and by the endless piety. Even if He asks for the faith in his Word, He always allows the miracle to those who ask for it. The Gospel attests that many people have passed from the miracle to his discipleship. The style of Jesus must be our style, too. It is righteous that we ask for a perfect faith, but then we must also let ourselves be moved by the great piety and by the endless mercy and always allow that good or that grace that instils hope in hearts. Then we must pray the Holy Spirit so that from the received good one passes to the faith in the Word so as to enter the true life. But this is a path always to be built in hearts. It is a work that must always begin as if we were on the first day. This work must be done only under the motion and inspiration of the Spirit of the Lord. Without Him one thinks and acts by flesh.**

**Let us read the text of Jn 4,43-54**

**After the two days, he left there for Galilee. For Jesus himself testified that a prophet has no honor in his native place. When he came into Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him, since they had seen all he had done in Jerusalem at the feast; for they themselves had gone to the feast. Then he returned to Cana in Galilee, where he had made the water wine. Now there was a royal official whose son was ill in Capernaum. When he heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judea, he went to him and asked him to come down and heal his son, who was near death. Jesus said to him, "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will not believe." The royal official said to him, "Sir, come down before my child dies." Jesus said to him, "You may go; your son will live." The man believed what Jesus said to him and left. While he was on his way back, his slaves met him and told him that his boy would live. He asked them when he began to recover. They told him, "The fever left him yesterday, about one in the afternoon." The father realized that just at that time Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live," and he and his whole household came to believe. (Now) this was the second sign Jesus did when he came to Galilee from Judea.**

**The royal official asks for a miracle. The Lord grants it. He subjects him to a strong act of faith, though. He must believe in the miracle without seeing it with his own eyes: "You may go; your son will live." The official had asked Him to come down with him. Jesus does not. He tested his faith, instead. The trial is overcome. He goes home with the certitude in the heart that his son will not live, he is already living. History then will confirm that his faith is true. The son has begun to live in the same moment in which Jesus has said that he lives. Now the other passage is fulfilled: from the faith in Jesus as doer of miracles, to the faith in Jesus who has words of eternal life. This is the true miracle that every disciple of Jesus must fulfil: helping every man so that he believes in Jesus who has words of eternal life, words of light and of truth, of justice and of peace, words of redemption and of salvation. If the disciple of Jesus does not lead hearts to this faith, his work is vain. As Jesus asked a most perfect faith, also each of his disciple must ask for a perfect faith. He might never ask if he lives of imperfect faith. May the Mother rich in faith obtain for us a perfect faith.**