**JANUARY 2020**

## FIRST DECADE OF JANUARY

# Eight days were completed for his circumcision

# WEDNESDAY 1 JANUARY (Lk 2,16-21)

With the circumcision, Jesus becomes the true son of Abraham and his true offspring. Since he is the true offspring, all the tribes of the earth, all peoples and all nations will be blessed in him. The rite of circumcision has very ancient origins. In Holy Scripture it is traced back to a precise order of the Lord: *When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said: "I am God the Almighty. Walk in my presence and be blameless. Between you and me I will establish my covenant, and I will multiply you exceedingly." When Abram prostrated himself, God continued to speak to him: "My covenant with you is this: you are to become the father of a host of nations. No longer shall you be called Abram; your name shall be Abraham, for I am making you the father of a host of nations. I will render you exceedingly fertile; I will make nations of you; kings shall stem from you. I will maintain my covenant with you and your descendants after you throughout the ages as an everlasting pact, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. I will give to you and to your descendants after you the land in which you are now staying, the whole land of Canaan, as a permanent possession; and I will be their God."*

The sign in the flesh attests that we are in this promise of God and Abraham: ”*God also said to Abraham: "On your part, you and your descendants after you must keep my covenant throughout the ages. This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you that you must keep: every male among you shall be circumcised. Circumcise the flesh of your foreskin, and that shall be the mark of the covenant between you and me. Throughout the ages, every male among you, when he is eight days old, shall be circumcised, including house born slaves and those acquired with money from any foreigner who is not of your blood. Yes, both the house born slaves and those acquired with money must be circumcised. Thus my covenant shall be in your flesh as an everlasting pact. If a male is uncircumcised, that is, if the flesh of his foreskin has not been cut away, such a one shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant"* (Gen 17,1-14). Circumcision is not a meaningless ritual. It is a sign of belonging, descent and sonship. It makes men who are according to the flesh become men of faith. Even Jesus, although he is the Son of God, the Father in him cannot bless all the peoples and nations, if he does not first become the son of Abraham according to the promise, the faith and the command of the Lord.

*So they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to them. When eight days were completed for his circumcision, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.*

In our most holy faith, every rite, even if it belongs to the Old Testament, is loaded with very high, divine and eternal mysteries. Before and after the celebration of the ritual, the person is no longer the same. Before Jesus was only Son of God and Son of Mary. He was not the Son of Abraham, never could have he been the Son of David and never the descendant in whom the Lord would have blessed all nations tomorrow. Mary and Joseph fulfil the Law, they subject Jesus to the rite of circumcision, Jesus is now the true Son of Abraham, the true Son of David and the true Descendant of Abraham. Everything is done with circumcision. If all those Christians, including many ministers of the Word, stopped affirming, supporting and shouting that baptism serves no purpose and began to spread the truth of the very high mystery that is contained in it, they would do a great service of redemption and salvation to all humanity. Instead for foolishness and ignorance of falsehood and lies that governs mind and heart, they deprive man of the grace that redeems, justifies, saves and makes of man a new creature, filling it with grace and the Holy Spirit. Falsehood kills all true hope.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, arrange that the Christian's mouth is a source of truth and light.

# Whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie

# THURDAY 2 JANUARY (Jn 1,19-28)

It is not enough to affirm a truth, for it to be truth. It is necessary that the truth is proved by history, by facts and by events. Moses presents himself to Pharaoh with these words: *"“After that, Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Let my people go, that they may celebrate a feast to me in the desert." Pharaoh answered, "Who is the Lord, that I should heed his plea to let Israel go? I do not know the Lord; even if I did, I would not let Israel go." They replied, "The God of the Hebrews has sent us word. Let us go a three days' journey in the desert, that we may offer sacrifice to the Lord, our God; otherwise he will punish us with pestilence or the sword." The king of Egypt answered them, "What do you mean, Moses and Aaron, by taking the people away from their work? Off to your labor! Look how numerous the people of the land are already," continued Pharaoh, "and yet you would give them rest from their labor!""* (Ex 5,1-4). There is no other lord above me. I am the Lord of all the earth. The proof of attesting to his truth belongs to the Lord and not to pharaoh. Pharaoh says he is the lord. The Lord says that He is the Lord. Who is the Lord over every other lord?

The Lord, the God of Israel, carries out ten miraculous signs through which he attests to Pharaoh that he is the true Lord not only of men, but of the whole creation. He is the Lord even of death. That only the Lord is the Lord is revealed by the miserable end made by pharaoh and his army: they all ended up drowned in the Red Sea, because of their foolishness. Jesus is the Eternal Word of the Father, his Only Son, the Full of grace and truth. He is the light of the world, life and resurrection. It is up to God to prove this truth and also to Christ the Lord. God proves the truth of Christ Jesus calling his witnesses, the first of all is John the Baptist. John is not like pharaoh. In the Holy Spirit, he sees his human inadequacy. He is just a man. He is a man chosen by God and sent to bear witness to the true light that is Lord Jesus. John is not the light, he is not the truth and he is not grace. John is only a voice from God to cry out to the world the truth of Christ the Lord. He is the witness chosen by the Father to tell the world who Jesus of Nazareth really is. Where does John's testimony begin? From saying first of all who he is not. He is not the prophet who must come. He is not Elijah. He is not the Christ of God. He is only the witness. This is his truth.

*And this is the testimony of John. When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites (to him) to ask him, "Who are you?" he admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, "I am not the Messiah." So they asked him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?" He said: "I am 'the voice of one crying out in the desert, "Make straight the way of the Lord,"' as Isaiah the prophet said." Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah or Elijah or the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.*

The first testimony given by John to Jesus is on the affirmation of his origin. He comes from a man and a woman, even if he comes full of the Holy Spirit. He comes from the flesh and from the earth. He is just a man. Nothing more. Without the affirmation of this primary truth, there is no truth. Lucifer made himself God. He cannot testify. Man also made himself God. He cannot testify in favour of truth. John is a man, he remains a man. He can testify in favour of the truth. This is the source, the spring of every religious error. It is the fruit of all those men who are only men and have proclaimed themselves saviours and redeemers and still continue to proclaim themselves or to be proclaimed redeemers and saviours, while only one is the Redeemer and only one is the Saviour: God. Taking the place of God on the part of a man is the greatest lie and falsehood. Who deceives himself is deceiver of the world.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, ensure that every creature is recognized as only a creature.

**On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain**

**FRIDAY 3 JANUARY (Jn 1,29-34)**

Both natural and supernatural things can be known in their truest truth, that truth placed in them by the Lord, only by revelation. Since everything was created by God, everything must be revealed in his intimate and hidden truth by God. The Book of Wisdom teaches: *“For he gave me sound knowledge of existing things, that I might know the organization of the universe and the force of its elements, The beginning and the end and the midpoint of times, the changes in the sun's course and the variations of the seasons. Cycles of years, positions of the stars, natures of animals, tempers of beasts, Powers of the winds and thoughts of men, uses of plants and virtues of roots - Such things as are hidden I learned and such as are plain; for Wisdom, the artificer of all, taught me. For in her is a spirit intelligent, holy, unique, Manifold, subtle, agile, clear, unstained, certain, Not baneful, loving the good, keen, unhampered, beneficent, kindly, Firm, secure, tranquil, all-powerful, all-seeing, And pervading all spirits, though they be intelligent, pure and very subtle”.* This truth must be written in the heart. Truth is the very being of things and men. Truth is God in his eternity. It is also the whole universe in its creation. Truth and being coincide. But man can bring his being, by will, from truth to falsehood. When this happens, the being is in suffering, in death. It is a being from truth for truth.

That is how the sacred text goes on: *“For Wisdom is mobile beyond all motion, and she penetrates and pervades all things by reason of her purity. For she is an aura of the might of God and a pure effusion of the glory of the Almighty; therefore nought that is sullied enters into her. For she is the refulgence of eternal light, the spotless mirror of the power of God, the image of his goodness. And she, who is one, can do all things, and renews everything while herself perduring; And passing into holy souls from age to age, she produces friends of God and prophets. For there is nought God loves, be it not one who dwells with Wisdom. For she is fairer than the sun and surpasses every constellation of the stars. Compared to light, she takes precedence; for that, indeed, night supplants, but wickedness prevails not over Wisdom”* (Wis 7,17-30). When a man separates from the eternal source of truth, he also separates himself from the knowledge of truth, which must always be given by the Creator.

*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."*

Jesus is the eternal truth that was made created truth. Very perfect in his eternal truth, most perfect in his created truth, through the work of the Holy Spirit. In Him uncreated truth and created truth are one in his eternal divine person. How might John know this double truth of Christ Jesus? Only by revelation. The Father reveals to him who his Messiah is, his Christ, the truth and grace that come into the world, first announcing the event and then making him see the Holy Spirit descending from heaven and remaining on him, on Christ the Lord. Jesus receives the Spirit. This is why he baptizes in the Holy Spirit. He receives it without measure and gives it without measure. There is no knowledge of the truth except by revelation, manifestation, inspiration, by gift of the Holy Spirit and by illumination. The knowledge that John has of Jesus is true because it is not founded on the human capacities of a man, but on the manifestation and revelation of the Lord God. The Father is the guarantor of the truth of his Son. The whole Gospel according to John is this guarantee on the part of the Father. The Father uses human witnesses, but He is the heavenly and eternal Witness who guarantees for the truth.

Mother of God, Angels, Saints, arrange that every Christian is a true witness of Christ Jesus.

**Behold, the Lamb of God.**

**SATURDAY 4 JANUARY (Jn 1,35-42)**

Jesus, from John the Baptist, is presented as "The Lamb of God". He is the Lamb of the New Easter. The Lamb of Ancient Easter was only a figure: *“On the tenth of this month every one of your families must procure for itself a lamb, one apiece for each household. The lamb must be a year-old male and without blemish. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, and then, with the whole assembly of Israel present, it shall be slaughtered during the evening twilight. They shall take some of its blood and apply it to the two doorposts and the lintel of every house in which they partake of the lamb. That same night they shall eat its roasted flesh with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. "This is how you are to eat it: with your loins girt, sandals on your feet and your staff in hand, you shall eat like those who are in flight. It is the Passover of the Lord. For on this same night I will go through Egypt, striking down every first - born of the land, both man and beast, I, the Lord! But the blood will mark the houses where you are. Seeing the blood, I will pass over you; thus, when I strike the land of Egypt, no destructive blow will come upon you”* (Ex 12,3-13). This Lamb freed from death with its blood. It gave the strength to take the path of liberation with its eaten meat.

But man always remained in his old nature, shattered and torn by sin. Another Lamb was needed, a Lamb capable of destroying sin and bringing into the heart of man the grace that regenerates and gives new life. This Lamb is announced by the prophet Isaiah: *“Yet it was our infirmities that he bore, our sufferings that he endured, While we thought of him as stricken, as one smitten by God and afflicted. But he was pierced for our offenses, crushed for our sins, Upon him was the chastisement that makes us whole, by his stripes we were healed. We had all gone astray like sheep, each following his own way; But the Lord laid upon him the guilt of us all. Though he was harshly treated, he submitted and opened not his mouth; Like a lamb led to the slaughter or a sheep before the shearers, he was silent and opened not his mouth. Oppressed and condemned, he was taken away, and who would have thought any more of his destiny? When he was cut off from the land of the living, and smitten for the sin of his people, A grave was assigned him among the wicked and a burial place with evildoers, Though he had done no wrong nor spoken any falsehood. (But the Lord was pleased to crush him in infirmity.) If he gives his life as an offering for sin, he shall see his descendants in a long life, and the will of the Lord shall be accomplished through him. Because of his affliction he shall see the light in fullness of days; Through his suffering, my servant shall justify many, and their guilt he shall bear”* (Cf. Is 52,13-53,12). Both Lambs are necessary to man: the former frees and gives strength to walk. The latter regenerates and gives new life.

*The next day John was there again with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God." The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come, and you will see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day. It was about four in the afternoon. Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the two who heard John and followed Jesus. He first found his own brother Simon and told him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). Then he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John; you will be called Kephas" (which is translated Peter).*

From this announcement of John the Baptist begins the new history of humanity. Two of his disciples abandon their first teacher and follow Jesus. They remain with him. They know him. They choose him. They bring to him. Andrew talks to his brother of Jesus and presents him like the Christ of God. He brings him to Him. Jesus welcomes him and changes his name, a sign of a new life, new vocation and new mission. It also applies to us. If we all had the courage to announce Christ according to truth, everything would change.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, make us true and daring witnesses of the truth of Lord Jesus.

**And the Word became flesh**

**SUNDAY 5 JANUARY (Jn 1-18)**

Being a creature Lucifer wanted to make himself God out of pride. A third of angels of the sky let itself be deceived by his falseness and they also from light became darkness and were precipitated in the eternal darkness of the hell. Having lost him the light, out of foolishness, ignorance and great pride, out of envy he tempts every man to lose it too: *“For God formed man to be imperishable; the image of his own nature he made him. But by the envy of the devil, death entered the world, and they who are in his possession experience it”* (Wis 2,23-24). Today Satan has unleashed one of his most bloody battles, not against the man who is already in his power, but against the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. What the Book of the Apocalypse reveals seems to be lived: *“A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was with child and wailed aloud in pain as she labored to give birth. Then another sign appeared in the sky; it was a huge red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on its heads were seven diadems. Its tail swept away a third of the stars in the sky and hurled them down to the earth. Then the dragon stood before the woman about to give birth, to devour her child when she gave birth. She gave birth to a son, a male child, destined to rule all the nations with an iron rod. Her child was caught up to God and his throne. The woman herself fled into the desert where she had a place prepared by God, that there she might be taken care of for twelve hundred and sixty days* (Rev 12,1-6). A third of the stars of heaven are not only the angels of God, they are also the angels of the churches. Only the Father knows how long this bloody battle will last. We are responsible for not falling into the falsehoods of Satan and his lies against Christ, against God and against the Church herself.

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him. But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name, who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man's decision but of God. And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. John testified to him and cried out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'The one who is coming after me ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.'" From his fullness we have all received, grace in place of grace, because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. The only Son, God, who is at the Father's side, has revealed him.*

Today, the very children of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church are the ones who proclaim men as gods and Saviours. God, the heavenly Father, gave every man one way to rise to divine dignity, to become a participant in the divine nature, to be a true child of God. This way is his Word made flesh. The Word became true man, so that in him man became God were deified and raised to very high dignity. The way of Satan is of pride. The way of the Word is of humility and obedience. The incarnate Word became obedient to the Father until his death and death on the cross and was raised to Lord of heaven and earth, Judge of the living and the dead. Whoever wants to become God has this only way: humbling himself in Christ until death by the cross, becoming with him only one sacrifice and holocaust of obedience. But Satan does not want this way. He wants the way of pride and for this with every temptation he is leading the children of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church, to be separated from the very pure truth of Christ Jesus, surrendering themselves to idolatry and immorality, proclaiming every man God.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, free us from this heavy temptation of Satan.

**Offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh**

**MONDAY 6 JANUARY (Mt 2,1-12)**

Jesus is not the Saviour, the Redeemer, the Blessing, the Grace, the Truth and the Light of one people or one nation. He comes to give eternal life to every man. As He is the universal Mediator in creation, so he is the universal Mediator in salvation and redemption. Eternal life is given for Him, but also in Him and with Him. However, it is not Jesus who made himself the Saviour and the Redeemer of man, but it is his Father who constituted him, wanted him and gave him: *“No one has gone up to heaven except the one who has come down from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life." For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God”* (Jn 3,13-18). The Father gave only his Only Son to be the Blessing, the Life, the Grace and the Truth for all peoples. This truth, which is absolute and universal, is today attacked by an army of piranhas with a voracious desire for destruction, demolition and elimination. This army is determined for everything. It wants to destroy, overthrow, crucify and bury Christ Jesus in order to bury humanity in a falsehood from which there might never be a return, because the only truth of humanity is Christ. The Magi reveal us two very high truths. The first reveals to us that even if the world does not see in the star the sign given by God, even if Herod, the Scribes and Jerusalem do not move to go to Bethlehem, they persevere in their search and do not let themselves either be confused or even less be dissuaded. They walk on their own way. They seek and find. On this journey they are not alone. The star is with them.

*When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.*

Instead, the second truth reveals to us who the King they are looking for is for them. This truth is contained in the gifts they offer to the born King of the Jews. Gold is the sign of royalty. They are before the King of all peoples, their King, who was not constituted by himself, but by his Father, who is the true and living God, the Creator and the Lord of man and of the universe, of heaven and earth. The incense attests that this King is also God. However, he is not a man who became God. Instead, he is the God who became man. This descent of the Eternal word in the flesh, assumed as the essence of his Person, was also desired by the Father. Nothing happens in Christ, nothing is Christ except by the will of his Father. The third gift is myrrh, a bitter ointment. It reveals the great suffering, fruit of his holocaust for the redemption of humanity. Suffering was freely assumed by Christ Jesus, however, it was the fruit of his obedience to the Father until his death on the cross. Today the Magi must teach us to seek Jesus in a world that not only does not seek Christ, but does not want him and with satanic intent seeks his destruction.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints arrange that every Christian becomes a true seeker of Christ.

**On those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death**

**TUESDAY 7 JANUARY (Mt 4,12-17.23-25)**

The Evangelist Matthew, after his victory over the devil in the desert, starts the mission of Jesus, with complete fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy. In it is said not only that the light comes to illuminate the darkness of the earth, but it is also revealed who the bearer of this light, which is light of truth, justice, peace, reconciliation and forgiveness, is: *“First he degraded the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali; but in the end he has glorified the seaward road, the land West of the Jordan, the District of the Gentiles. Anguish has taken wing, dispelled is darkness; for there is no gloom where but now there was distress. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; Upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone. You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing, As they rejoice before you as at the harvest, as men make merry when dividing spoils. For the yoke that burdened them, the pole on their shoulder, And the rod of their taskmaster you have smashed, as on the day of Midian. For every boot that tramped in battle, every cloak rolled in blood, will be burned as fuel for flames. For a child is born to us, a son is given us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace. His dominion is vast and forever peaceful, From David's throne, and over his kingdom, which he confirms and sustains By judgment and justice, both now and forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!”* (Is 8,23-9.6). Who brings light to the region of darkness is the Christ, the Messiah. Jesus is the wonderful counselor, the powerful God and the Father forever. Prince of Peace. Jesus is the true light that comes to illuminate every man. He is the truth to make every child of Adam truth. He is life that is made life of those who live in the region of death. Jesus is the Eternal God, the eternal Light God, the eternal Life God, the eternal Love God given to us by the Father in the flesh. Whoever sees Jesus sees a man, but that man is God, he is the Son of God and he is the Eternal Word of the Father. This divine and eternal essence escaped men yesterday and escapes even today. Today much more than yesterday, because of a universal satanic will against him and his essence.

*When he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what had been said through Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled: "Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the way to the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who sit in darkness have seen a great light, on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death light has arisen." From that time on, Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." He went around all of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and curing every disease and illness among the people. His fame spread to all of Syria, and they brought to him all who were sick with various diseases and racked with pain, those who were possessed, lunatics, and paralytics, and he cured them. And great crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan followed him.*

How do we enter the light, the truth, grace, justice and eternal life which is Christ Jesus? Through conversion. But it is not a matter of moral conversion: from disobedience to obedience, from sin to repentance and return to the covenant and from injustice to justice. Conversion is theological and applies to every man, just, unjust, holy, sinner, believer and unbeliever. The required conversion is the passage from Moses to Christ, from the Old Covenant to the New, from the Word of God given to the fathers to the Word of Lord Jesus, from the blood of the goats, bulls and calves to the blood of Christ Jesus, but also from the priesthood according to Aaron to the priesthood according to Christ the Lord. Conversion must be full, radical, total, perennial and with no turning back. One cannot remain in the Old and assume something of the New. He must pass into the New, leaving the Old. The old holiness is no longer needed. Today the new sanctity is needed, the one that is the fruit of obedience to the Word of Jesus. If Moses is to be converted to Christ, every other man must be converted. Jesus is the only Prince of peace and the only King of the kingdom of God. For this reason conversion to Christ is obligatory if one wants to enter into his light, truth and life.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, arrange that every man is converted to Christ, his eternal light.

**Give them some food yourselves**

**WEDNESDAY 8 JANUARY (Mk 6,34-44)**

Jesus tells the Apostles that they will have to be the ones to feed the crowd. They will have to nourish every man with light, truth and eternal life. Saint Paul is announced as the true model of the worker of the kingdom: *“If I preach the gospel, this is no reason for me to boast, for an obligation has been imposed on me, and woe to me if I do not preach it! If I do so willingly, I have a recompense, but if unwillingly, then I have been entrusted with a stewardship. What then is my recompense? That, when I preach, I offer the gospel free of charge so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel. Although I am free in regard to all, I have made myself a slave to all so as to win over as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew to win over Jews; to those under the law I became like one under the law - though I myself am not under the law - to win over those under the law. To those outside the law I became like one outside the law - though I am not outside God's law but within the law of Christ - to win over those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, to win over the weak. I have become all things to all, to save at least some. All this I do for the sake of the gospel, so that I too may have a share in it”* (1Cor 9,16-23). Who must nourish the people of truth, light and grace, must always be in the workplace. As the shepherd is inseparable from his sheep, so it is for the worker of the Gospel.

He is also the perfect model of true teaching and of true doctrine: *“For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus, on the night he was handed over, took bread, and, after he had given thanks, broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes. Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord unworthily will have to answer for the body and blood of the Lord. A person should examine himself, and so eat the bread and drink the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body, eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many among you are ill and infirm, and a considerable number are dying. If we discerned ourselves, we would not be under judgment; but since we are judged by (the) Lord, we are being disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world”* (1Cor 11,23-32). Today the sacraments of salvation are fed, but only as empty, sterile and ineffective rituality. They have been deprived, for lack of nourishment of wisdom, doctrine and science of the things of God, of their eternal truth.

*When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. By now it was already late and his disciples approached him and said, "This is a deserted place and it is already very late. Dismiss them so that they can go to the surrounding farms and villages and buy themselves something to eat." He said to them in reply, "Give them some food yourselves." But they said to him, "Are we to buy two hundred days' wages worth of food and give it to them to eat?" He asked them, "How many loaves do you have? Go and see." And when they had found out they said, "Five loaves and two fish." So he gave orders to have them sit down in groups on the green grass. The people took their places in rows by hundreds and by fifties. Then, taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he said the blessing, broke the loaves, and gave them to (his) disciples to set before the people; he also divided the two fish among them all. They all ate and were satisfied. And they picked up twelve wicker baskets full of fragments and what was left of the fish. Those who ate (of the loaves) were five thousand men.*

For the Apostles and Ministers of the Lord to give to eat to the people the Bread of the Word and the Bread of the Eucharist according to purity of truth and doctrine, it is necessary that they have the same obedience of Jesus in the Word of the Father and the same love that brought him to sacrifice himself on the altar of the cross. The more they grow in obedience and in love, the more they will devote themselves to the real nourishment of the people. If obedience is absent and love is little, very little, life will soon be handed over to do things of this world, of earth for the earth, but not of heaven for heaven.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints ensure that there is never lack of the true nourishment of Christ in the world.

**He came toward them walking on the sea**

**THURDAY 9 JANUARY (Mk 6,45-52)**

In Sacred Scripture, through the life of his men, God manifests and reveals how great his omnipotence is. But he also reveals the greatness of his men through both the Word they announce and also through the work they do. Of Moses it is said that no man has ever been as great as Him: *"Now listen to the words of the Lord: Should there be a prophet among you, in visions will I reveal myself to him, in dreams will I speak to him; Not so with my servant Moses! Throughout my house he bears my trust: face to face I speak to him, plainly and not in riddles. The presence of the Lord he beholds. Why, then, did you not fear to speak against my servant Moses?"* (Num 12,6-8). *"Since then no prophet has arisen in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face. He had no equal in all the signs and wonders the Lord sent him to perform in the land of Egypt against Pharaoh and all his servants and against all his land, and for the might and the terrifying power that Moses exhibited in the sight of all Israel”* (Dt 34,10-12). Yet this great man of God never walked on water. The Lord denied him this glory, so that it was reserved only to Christ the Lord. Jesus is greater than Moses, infinitely greater.

Elijah was also great in words and deeds. It suffices to read what the Book of Sirach says about his Person: *“Till like a fire there appeared the prophet whose words were as a flaming furnace. Their staff of bread he shattered, in his zeal he reduced them to straits; By God's word he shut up the heavens and three times brought down fire. How awesome are you, Elijha! Whose glory is equal to yours? You brought a dead man back to life from the nether world, by the will of the Lord. You sent kings down to destruction, and nobles, from their beds of sickness. You heard threats at Sinai, at Horeb avenging judgments. You anointed kings who should inflict vengeance, and a prophet as your successor. You were taken aloft in a whirlwind, in a chariot with fiery horses. You are destined, it is written, in time to come to put an end to wrath before the day of the Lord, To turn back the hearts of fathers toward their sons, and to reestablish the tribes of Jacob. Blessed is he who shall have seen you before he dies”* (Sir 48,1-11). This man is also very great. But he is not as big as Christ Jesus. He never even walked on the water. He raised a dead man. But he did not have this glory of possessing a body made as light as the breath of the wind. This glory belongs only to Christ the Lord.

*Then he made his disciples get into the boat and precede him to the other side toward Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. And when he had taken leave of them, he went off to the mountain to pray. When it was evening, the boat was far out on the sea and he was alone on shore. Then he saw that they were tossed about while rowing, for the wind was against them. About the fourth watch of the night, he came toward them walking on the sea. He meant to pass by them. But when they saw him walking on the sea, they thought it was a ghost and cried out. They had all seen him and were terrified. But at once he spoke with them, "Take courage, it is I, do not be afraid!" He got into the boat with them and the wind died down. They were (completely) astounded. They had not understood the incident of the loaves. On the contrary, their hearts were hardened.*

Manifesting himself as a breath of light wind that touches the surface of the waters, Jesus reveals himself to be greater than all the prophets and the righteous of the Old Testament. If Moses, Elias, Elisha have been recognized as true prophets of the Lord with the Word of God always on their lips, Jesus the Lord will have to be recognized much more. Even in the ways of working miracles, Jesus attests to the highest of the supreme. A single Word and all that he commands happens, is fulfilled. Now the disciples know the one who before them is: One who is greater than Moses, greater than Elijah and Elisha, greater than any man who preceded him. He can be believed as a true man of God, a true prophet of his, a true sent of his. Not only does Jesus walk on water. As soon as he gets on the boat, the wind instantly subsides and the disciples can reach the shore. Very high revelation!

Mother of God, Angels and Saints arrange that Christians convince the world with their works.

**The Spirit of the Lord is upon me**

**FRIDAY 10 JANUARY (Lk 4,14-22)**

What Jesus reveals in the synagogue of Nazareth is not a revelation, it is not even a statement, it is instead a testimony made on a solid historical foundation, also attested by John the Baptist: *"After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased""* (Lc 3,21-22). *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"”* (Jn 1,29-34). Jesus does not receive the Holy Spirit to accomplish a mission like that of Moses or Joshua or Samson or David or Elijah or others who preceded him in the Old Testament. The mission that Jesus will have to accomplish is that of Christ of God or Messiah of the Lord. This is why the Spirit was given to him.

But Jesus, until the moment of interrogation in the Sanhedrin, never revealed himself as the Messiah or Christ, but always as a true Prophet or Son of man. Revealing himself as the expected Messiah would have meant the immediate end of his mission. For this motive or supernatural and not human, not earthly reason and not even of fear, in the synagogue of Nazareth, He also reveals himself, but only as a man of God, as his prophet, as a person sent to carry out a spiritual and divine ministry. No word on the kingdom of God to be rebuilt, no mention on David's hut to be reconstructed. In the mission to be carried out, all the true and divine messianism is also contained, but it is not in evidence. For this reason Jesus makes use of this prophecy and not of others, in which messianism was strongly manifested. In this truly Jesus attests to be full of the Holy Spirit. Only the Spirit of the Lord knows the hearts and only He knows what words to say in the assembly, in which there are people who are also waiting for a tiny spark to ignite a great forest and ruin millennia of patient and meticulous work of the Lord.

*Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news of him spread throughout the whole region. He taught in their synagogues and was praised by all. He came to Nazareth, where he had grown up, and went according to his custom into the synagogue on the sabbath day. He stood up to read and was handed a scroll of the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord." Rolling up the scroll, he handed it back to the attendant and sat down, and the eyes of all in the synagogue looked intently at him. He said to them, "Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing." And all spoke highly of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth.*

If Jesus is the true prophet of the Most High God, he must not make any sign. The sign of the truth of the prophet is the Word uttered by him. Always speaking the prophet in the name of the Lord and saying only his Word, this must necessarily be fulfilled. Having been fulfilled, it is the Word that attests to the truth of the prophet. However, in the promises of the Father Jesus is not only the Prophet. He is also the King and Priest. The Prophet says the Word. The King governs the people according to the Word. The Priest offers himself as a sacrifice and holocaust from the Father to atone for the sin of the world. Three ministries are the ones that say the totality of the ministry and mission of Christ the Lord. But, today, in the synagogue it was the right thing that he revealed himself only as the true prophet of the Most High.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, make us in Christ, with Christ and through Christ, wise in the Spirit.

**JANUARY 2020**

***SECOND DECADE OF JANUARY***

**But he would withdraw to deserted places to pray**

**SATURDAY 11 JANUARY (Lk 5,12-16)**

Why did Jesus retreat to deserted places to pray? To know, in the Holy Spirit, the whole will of the Father. To draw from the Father, in the Holy Spirit, all strength to accomplish every command and desire revealed to him. Jesus is the true man. As the true man, he too grows in grace and wisdom, in the knowledge and science of the divine will. What the Book of Wisdom says also applies to Lord Jesus: *“For what man knows God's counsel, or who can conceive what our Lord intends? For the deliberations of mortals are timid, and unsure are our plans. For the corruptible body burdens the soul and the earthen shelter weighs down the mind that has many concerns. And scarce do we guess the things on earth, and what is within our grasp we find with difficulty; but when things are in heaven, who can search them out? Or who ever knew your counsel, except you had given Wisdom and sent your holy spirit from on high? And thus were the paths of those on earth made straight, and men learned what was your pleasure, and were saved by Wisdom”* (Wis 9,12-18).

There is neither wisdom nor prudence, nor intelligence, nor knowledge, except by prayer. Everything must be asked of the Father. Everything descends from him: *“Therefore I prayed, and prudence was given me; I pleaded and the spirit of Wisdom came to me. I preferred her to scepter and throne, And deemed riches nothing in comparison with her, nor did I liken any priceless gem to her; Because all gold, in view of her, is a little sand, and before her, silver is to be accounted mire. Beyond health and comeliness I loved her, And I chose to have her rather than the light, because the splendor of her never yields to sleep. Yet all good things together came to me in her company, and countless riches at her hands; And I rejoiced in them all, because Wisdom is their leader, though I had not known that she is the mother of these. Simply I learned about her, and ungrudgingly do I share - her riches I do not hide away; For to men she is an unfailing treasure; those who gain this treasure win the friendship of God, to whom the gifts they have from discipline commend them. Now God grant I speak suitably and value these endowments at their worth: For he is the guide of Wisdom and the director of the wise”* (Wis 7,7-15). Jesus is Light from the Light of the Father, Truth from the truth of the Father and Wisdom from the wisdom of the Father. But being He also the true man, as the true man, moment by moment, he must draw light, truth, grace, strength and intelligence from his Father. Prayer is the way so that all of God gives himself to Christ the Lord.

*Now there was a man full of leprosy in one of the towns where he was; and when he saw Jesus, he fell prostrate, pleaded with him, and said, "Lord, if you wish, you can make me clean." Jesus stretched out his hand, touched him, and said, "I do will it. Be made clean." And the leprosy left him immediately. Then he ordered him not to tell anyone, but "Go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses prescribed; that will be proof for them." The report about him spread all the more, and great crowds assembled to listen to him and to be cured of their ailments, but he would withdraw to deserted places to pray.*

A leper asks Jesus to be purified by him. He asks it with great delicacy and respect. Jesus heals him, but orders him not to report this healing to anyone. The silence of the one who has been healed is not enough for nothing to be known. One knows it, a whole region knows it. What should Jesus do? Must he devote himself to healing or preach the Word of the kingdom of God? Must he turn for to charity in favour of the soul and spirit, or to mercy in favour of the body? He cannot decide by himself. It is the Father who must decide and it is to the Father that everything must always be asked. Since each history is personal, one must go to the Father for every history. This is the purpose of prayer: always knowing all the will of the Father, so as to make his whole life a perennial obedience. Without prayer, it is easy to fall into temptation. One would serve the body. Soul and spirit would be left out. Jesus' mission is for the eternal salvation of every man. It is useless to give life to a body while leaving the soul in eternal death. Everything must be done from the will of the Father.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, indicate every Christian the holy way of prayer.

**With whom I am well pleased**

**SUNDAY 12 JANUARY (Mt 3,13-17)**

In the words that the Father makes be heard from heaven there is a clear reference to the prophecy of Isaiah. Not only it is explicitly spoken of the Messiah, what his mission will be towards all peoples and all nations is also revealed in it: *“Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased, Upon whom I have put my spirit; he shall bring forth justice to the nations, Not crying out, not shouting, not making his voice heard in the street. A bruised reed he shall not break, and a smoldering wick he shall not quench, Until he establishes justice on the earth; the coastlands will wait for his teaching. Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spreads out the earth with its crops, Who gives breath to its people and spirit to those who walk on it: I, the Lord, have called you for the victory of justice, I have grasped you by the hand; I formed you, and set you as a covenant of the people, a light for the nations, To open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness”* (Is 42,1-7). The whole mission of the Messiah is from the will of the Father. The Father has written everything for Him. In the Christ of God everything must be most pure obedience. From the Gospels, we know that Jesus always let himself be moved and led by the Holy Spirit. He did nothing by his choice, his determination, his desire and his will. This is why Satan always tempted him: so that Jesus dissociated himself from the will that the Father had on him. If Jesus had fallen even in very small things, he would not have operated salvation. From disobedience even small, very small, never might there be redemption.

In Christ Jesus, Messiah of the Lord, the marriage of humanity with its Lord and God is accomplished. The words of the Father also refer to this further prophecy: *“For Zion's sake I will not be silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, Until her vindication shines forth like the dawn and her victory like a burning torch. Nations shall behold your vindication, and all kings your glory; You shall be called by a new name pronounced by the mouth of the Lord. You shall be a glorious crown in the hand of the Lord, a royal diadem held by your God. No more shall men call you "Forsaken," or your land "Desolate," But you shall be called "My Delight," and your land "Espoused." For the Lord delights in you, and makes your land his spouse. As a young man marries a virgin, your Builder shall marry you; And as a bridegroom rejoices in his bride so shall your God rejoice in you”* (Is 62,1-5). From the Book of Revelation we know that this marriage will be eternal in the Heavenly Jerusalem, when the creation of new heavens and new earth will take place. With the marriage in Christ, between man and his God, the mystery of creation is fulfilled. The man who by the will and omnipotent word has come out of the heart of the Father, through the mystery of the incarnation and redemption will live forever in the heart of the Father.

*Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. John tried to prevent him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?" Jesus said to him in reply, "Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness." Then he allowed him. After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened (for him), and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove (and) coming upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."*

In the mystery of Jesus is the truth of the mystery of man. Not only is the mystery of man from the mystery of Christ the Lord, but he is in the mystery, through and with the mystery, forming with him one mystery for eternity. While creation is a fact of divine omnipotence, the redemption and fulfillment of the mystery are by the will of man. The will of the Messiah who surrenders himself to an obedience to the Father until the death by the cross and also the will of man, that, he too, hands himself over to Christ in an obedience to death by a cross. Everything in redemption is from obedience to the Word of Jesus. One obeys the mystery is fulfilled. One does not obey, he remains in death forever.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints ensure that the mystery of Christ Jesus is fulfilled in every man.

**Repent, and believe in the gospel**

**MONDAY 13 JANUARY (Mk 1,14-20)**

The conversion preached by the prophets before Christ the Lord was an invitation for the people of God to return to the sources of salvation in obedience to his Covenant: *“Therefore, thus says the Holy One of Israel: Because you reject this word, And put your trust in what is crooked and devious, and depend on it, This guilt of yours shall be like a descending rift Bulging out in a high wall whose crash comes suddenly, in an instant. It crashes like a potter's jar smashed beyond rescue, And among its fragments cannot be found a sherd to scoop fire from the hearth or dip water from the cistern. For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel: By waiting and by calm you shall be saved, in quiet and in trust your strength lies. But this you did not wish. "No," you said, "Upon horses we will flee."  - Very well, flee! "Upon swift steeds we will ride."  - Not so swift as your pursuers. A thousand shall tremble at the threat of one; if five threaten you, you shall flee, Until you are left like a flagstaff on the mountaintop, like a flag on the hill. Yet the Lord is waiting to show you favor, and he rises to pity you; For the Lord is a God of justice: blessed are all who wait for him! O people of Zion, who dwell in Jerusalem, no more will you weep; He will be gracious to you when you cry out, as soon as he hears he will answer you. The Lord will give you the bread you need and the water for which you thirst. No longer will your Teacher hide himself, but with your own eyes you shall see your Teacher, While from behind, a voice shall sound in your ears: "This is the way; walk in it," when you would turn to the right or to the left.”* Walking in the Law is the obligation of every child of Israel for the pact of the Covenant contracted with God.

We are converted when we begin to observe the first commandment, when we abandon idols and every fruit that idolatry produces and generates: *“And you shall consider unclean your silver-plated idols and your gold-covered images; You shall throw them away like filthy rags to which you say, "Begone!" He will give rain for the seed that you sow in the ground, And the wheat that the soil produces will be rich and abundant. On that day your cattle will graze in spacious meadows; The oxen and the asses that till the ground will eat silage tossed to them with shovel and pitchfork. Upon every high mountain and lofty hill there will be streams of running water. On the day of the great slaughter, when the towers fall, The light of the moon will be like that of the sun and the light of the sun will be seven times greater (like the light of seven days). On the day the Lord binds up the wounds of his people, he will heal the bruises left by his blows”* (Cf. Is 30,12-26). God and idols cannot be served. Who serves God does not serve idols. Who serves the idols, does not serve God. The conversion required by Jesus, as a key to enter his kingdom is different. Conversion is to his kingdom, it is to his Person, to his Gospel, to his Word, to his death, to his resurrection, to his grace and truth, to his light and eternal life. It is conversion from the Father to the Son to know the true Father, the true God, true salvation and redemption.

*After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfilment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." As he passed by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting their nets into the sea; they were fishermen. Jesus said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." Then they abandoned their nets and followed him. He walked along a little farther and saw James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They too were in a boat mending their nets. Then he called them. So they left their father Zebedee in the boat along with the hired men and followed him.*

It is not a question of a moral conversion with Jesus, of a return to the Old Covenant. Instead, it is a passage to the New Covenant which must be stipulated in his blood. Whoever converts to Christ, whoever welcomes him, welcomes the Father. Whoever refuses Christ refuses the Father. Since the Covenant of the Father with man is only that stipulated in the blood of Christ, whoever rejects Christ, who does not drink his blood, remains outside the covenant with the Lord. The Ancient Alliance gives way to the New one forever. This conversion to Christ Jesus is urgent every day. Even those who believe in it must convert to it every day. Conversion is daily and is to the cross of Jesus. Until one does not carry the image of Jesus Crucified, one he must always be converted.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, give us the Holy Spirit of conversion and true faith.

**He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him**

**TUESDAY 14 JANUARY (Mk 1,21-28)**

Let us ask ourselves: how great, powerful and omnipotent is the Word of Jesus? In Holy Scripture no man of God has ever commanded an impure spirit. The only case of exorcism, however, it is an exorcism - it is not a question of diabolical possession, but of persecution and death - it is the one operated by Tobia on the suggestion of the Archangel Raphael: *"He answered: "As regards the fish's heart and liver, if you burn them so that the smoke surrounds a man or a woman who is afflicted by a demon or evil spirit, the affliction will leave him completely, and no demons will ever return to him again. And as for the gall, if you rub it on the eyes of a man who has cataracts, blowing into his eyes right on the cataracts, his sight will be restored"”* (Tb 6,8-9). *When they had finished eating and drinking, the girl's parents wanted to retire. They brought the young man out of the dining room and led him into the bedroom. At this point Tobiah, mindful of Raphael's instructions, took the fish's liver and heart from the bag which he had with him, and placed them on the embers for the incense. The demon, repelled by the odor of the fish, fled into Upper Egypt; Raphael pursued him there and bound him hand and foot. Then Raphael returned immediately”* (Tb 8,1-3). Jesus does not have to perform any ritual to drive away the unclean spirits. One word suffices: "Shut up! Get out of him!", and the unclean spirit immediately must obey the command received. Not only is Jesus a man of God. He is the God through whom Lucifer was created in purity and holiness. Then he became impure and unclean by his pride. He who wanted to be like God, under no God, must now be under a man, who is however Man-God and God-Man. He tempted man. Now he must also obey the man. No creature might escape obedience to its Creator.

Satan is always the most astute among "the animals of the garden, that is of creation". His purpose is only one: bringing Jesus the greatest possible damage and for this he reveals his identity: "You are the Holy One of God". "You are the Messiah". "You are the Christ". But Jesus immediately orders him to be silent. He cannot reveal his mystery. It must remain hidden until the day before his Passion and Death. Today he must be recognized, confessed and accepted as the true man of God, his true Prophet, a true Person sent by God to preach conversion and faith in the Gospel. When the time comes, it will be He who reveals his identity to the world. Men too must know that their word, even if pure truth, must not always be told. There are no historical conditions for it to be accepted and produce fruits of life. If not accepted, it might produce fruits of death. Every truth has its time and moment. Whoever is in the Holy Spirit knows the time to talk and the time to keep quiet. Whoever walks following his instinct, his wickedness and his pride, speaks when he must be silent and is silent when he has to speak. Without the motion of the Spirit we will speak inappropriately, because we will always talk from the flesh, sin, deceit and illusion.

*Then they came to Capernaum, and on the Sabbath he entered the synagogue and taught. The people were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes. In their synagogue was a man with an unclean spirit; he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are - the Holy One of God!" Jesus rebuked him and said, "Quiet! Come out of him!" The unclean spirit convulsed him and with a loud cry came out of him. All were amazed and asked one another, "What is this? A new teaching with authority. He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him." His fame spread everywhere throughout the whole region of Galilee.*

People see, makes the difference between Jesus and every other man. Jesus is not like the others. He is different, indeed he is the Different. Others speak. He speaks with authority. Others say. The Word of Jesus is order, command and obligation. Neither creation nor unclean spirits can subtract their obedience from it. Only man can refuse to obey. But the consequences will be disastrous for him, because they will be of eternal death. We did not believe in the Only Begotten Son of the Father given to us for our eternal redemption. Whoever does not obey must know what the consequences will be.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints ensure that we recognize Christ as our Saviour.

**For this purpose have I come**

**WEDNESDAY 15 JANUARY (Mk 1,29-39)**

Jesus will have to do nothing starting from his will, heart, mind, feelings and virtues. Not even charity, compassion, mercy and piety will have to come from Him. He is entirely of the Father and always from the Father and from his will. The Father wrote everything for him. Jesus just has to obey. Thus the Psalm: *“*[*Sacrifice*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=02077) *and* [*meal*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=04503)[*offering*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=04503) *You have not* [*desired*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=02654)*; My* [*ears*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=0241) *You have* [*opened*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=03738)*;* [*Burnt*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=05930)[*offering*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=05930) *and* [*sin*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=02401)[*offering*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=02401) *You have not* [*required*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=07592)*.* [*Then*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=0227) *I* [*said*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=0559)*,* [*"Behold*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=02009)*, I* [*come*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=0935)*; In the* [*scroll*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=04039) *of the* [*book*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=05612) *it is* [*written*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=03789) *of me. I* [*delight*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=02654) *to* [*do*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=06213) *Your* [*will*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=07522)*, O my* [*God*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=0430)*; Your* [*Law*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=08451) *is* [*within*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=08432) *my* [*heart*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=04578)*." I have* [*proclaimed*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=01319)[*glad*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=01319)[*tidings*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=01319) *of* [*righteousness*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=06664) *in the* [*great*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=07227)[*congregation*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=06951)*;* [*Behold*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=02009)*, I will not* [*restrain*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=03607) *my* [*lips*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=08193)*, O* [*Lord*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=03068)*, You* [*know*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=03045)*. I have not* [*hidden*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=03680) *Your* [*righteousness*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=06666)[*within*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=08432) *my* [*heart*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=03820)*; I have* [*spoken*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=0559) *of Your* [*faithfulness*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=0530) *and Your* [*salvation*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=08668)*; I have not* [*concealed*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=03582) *Your* [*loving kindness*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=02617) *and Your* [*truth*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=0571) *from the* [*great*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=07227)[*congregation*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=06951)*”* (Cf. Ps 40 (39) 1-18). Jesus must draw all, even the simplest thought from the will of the Father. Nothing must come from his heart. His life can only be obedience.

The Letter to the Hebrews reveals that our redemption is the fruit of Jesus' obedience to the will that the Father wrote for him on the scroll of his heart. Jesus' sacrifice is his obedience that leads him to die on the cross for the Father: *“For this reason, when he came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; holocausts and sin offerings you took no delight in. Then I said, 'As is written of me in the scroll, Behold, I come to do your will, O God.'" First he says, "Sacrifices and offerings, holocausts and sin offerings, you neither desired nor delighted in." These are offered according to the law. Then he says, "Behold, I come to do your will." He takes away the first to establish the second. By this "will," we have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all”* (Heb 10,5-10). Not only does Satan want to write his will on the scroll of the Book of Jesus, but also every other man, including all the sick. Peter and the other disciples even want to add a few sentences, a few lines and some entire period. Jesus knows that a powerful temptation can come to him from every man. For this reason, at night he retires to deserted, isolated places, and prays to his Father, so that he always shows him how much it is written that He does for today. Every day the Father writes. Every day Jesus must know. Every day he must obey. Every day he will be tempted to not obey.

*On leaving the synagogue he entered the house of Simon and Andrew with James and John. Simon's mother-in-law lay sick with a fever. They immediately told him about her. He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up. Then the fever left her and she waited on them. When it was evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were ill or possessed by demons. The whole town was gathered at the door. He cured many who were sick with various diseases, and he drove out many demons, not permitting them to speak because they knew him. Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed. Simon and those who were with him pursued him and on finding him said, "Everyone is looking for you." He told them, "Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come." So he went into their synagogues, preaching and driving out demons throughout the whole of Galilee.*

Jesus is in prayer. He asks the Father to show him his will. The sick seek Jesus. They expect healing from Him. The Apostles with Simon put themselves on Jesus' trail. They find him and tell him that everyone is looking for him. His answer is immediate: *"Let us go elsewhere, in the neighboring villages, so that I also preach there. That's why I came!"* Jesus is not from the heart of the sick. He is not from the heart of his Apostles. He is not from any other man's heart. He is not from Satan's heart. He is not even from his heart, from his feelings and from his compassion and mercy. Jesus is only from the heart of the Father. He only does what the Father momentarily writes on the scroll of his heart. Jesus is always in everything perfect and universal obedience. Today, He has to leave the sick and go elsewhere. He leaves and goes to preach the Gospel where the Father sent him. Not even charity stops him.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, always make us obedient like Christ Jesus, in everything.

**See that you tell no one anything**

**THURDAY 16 JANUARY (Mk 1,40-45)**

God's works must be sung and magnified. It is the universal law. Every man owes it immediate obedience. The works are what manifest the greatness of the Creator and Lord. Here is the heavenly teaching given to us: *"Raphael called the two men aside privately and said to them: "Thank God! Give him the praise and the glory. Before all the living, acknowledge the many good things he has done for you, by blessing and extolling his name in song. Before all men, honor and proclaim God's deeds, and do not be slack in praising him. A king's secret it is prudent to keep, but the works of God are to be declared and made known. Praise them with due honor. Do good, and evil will not find its way to you. Prayer and fasting are good, but better than either is almsgiving accompanied by righteousness. A little with righteousness is better than abundance with wickedness. It is better to give alms than to store up gold; for almsgiving saves one from death and expiates every sin. Those who regularly give alms shall enjoy a full life; but those habitually guilty of sin are their own worst enemies. "I will now tell you the whole truth; I will conceal nothing at all from you. I have already said to you, 'A king's secret it is prudent to keep, but the works of God are to be made known with due honor.' I can now tell you that when you, Tobit, and Sarah prayed, it was I who presented and read the record of your prayer before the Glory of the Lord; and I did the same thing when you used to bury the dead. When you did not hesitate to get up and leave your dinner in order to go and bury the dead, I was sent to put you to the test. At the same time, however, God commissioned me to heal you and your daughter-in-law Sarah. I am Raphael, one of the seven angels who enter and serve before the Glory of the Lord" ”* (Tb 12,6-15). If the works of God are to be sung, magnified, celebrated, narrated, told, disseminated, announced - and this is the true evangelization: I will tell how much the Lord has done for me - why does Jesus impose silence? Why does Jesus severely warn the healed leper so that he watches not to say anything to anyone? For whom does this warning apply?

Every evangelization is done according to times and moments established by God. Even for the full truth of Christ Jesus there are times and moments determined by the Lord. Today the miracles worked by Jesus must be silenced, because much more space must be given to conversion and faith in the Gospel. If one comes to Jesus only for a miracle of the body, his mission is a great failure. The soul would remain in eternal death and the spirit in the great error and in the universal falseness concerning the mystery of salvation. What good is it to have a body cleansed of leprosy today, while the soul is already damned and ready to be received in eternal darkness? Instead it is preferable to remain with the body in leprosy, but with the soul full of grace and on the way to eternal bliss. Time is not the measure of a man's truth. The measure of truth is his eternity. Woe when the measure of truth is time and no longer eternity.

*A leper came to him (and kneeling down) begged him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean." The leprosy left him immediately, and he was made clean. Then, warning him sternly, he dismissed him at once. Then he said to him, "See that you tell no one anything, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses prescribed; that will be proof for them." The man went away and began to publicize the whole matter. He spread the report abroad so that it was impossible for Jesus to enter a town openly. He remained outside in deserted places, and people kept coming to him from everywhere.*

Jesus is in the Holy Spirit and knows what benefits man. Man is not in the Holy Spirit. He lives in the great ignorance of God and his things. Making the mystery of God in which is the mystery of man be known, belongs to Lord Jesus and today it belongs to the Apostles of the Lord. If the Apostles, in time, do not carry the measure of truth according to the rules of eternity established by the Lord, their work is in vain. They work in time for time. They do not evangelize to men the rules of true eternity. But today evangelizing according to the rules of eternity has become impossible. Many disciples of Jesus have substantially modified these rules, indeed they declared them null and void. They have repealed them. With what results? They can no longer evangelize eternity.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints arrange that the Christian is the evangelizer of true eternity.

**Child, your sins are forgiven**

**FRIDAY 17 JANUARY (Mk 2,1-12)**

Jesus is greater than Abraham. This prays that sin is forgiven: *"He said of his wife Sarah, "She is my sister." So Abimelech, king of Gerar, sent and took Sarah. But God came to Abimelech in a dream one night and said to him, "You are about to die because of the woman you have taken, for she has a husband." Abimelech, who had not approached her, said: "O Lord, would you slay a man even though he is innocent? He himself told me, 'She is my sister,' and she herself also stated, 'He is my brother.' I did it in good faith and with clean hands." God answered him in the dream: "Yes, I know you did it in good faith. In fact, it was I who kept you from sinning against me; that is why I did not let you touch her. Therefore, return the man's wife - as a spokesman he will intercede for you - that your life may be saved. If you do not return her, you can be sure that you and all who are yours will certainly die." Abraham then interceded with God, and God restored health to Abimelech, that is, to his wife and his maidservants, so that they could bear children; for God had tightly closed every womb in Abimelech's household on account of Abraham's wife Sarah”* (Cf. Gen 20,1-18). Jesus prays from the cross as the Crucified asking forgiveness for those who had condemned him and put him on the Cross.

Jesus is greater than Moses. This prays for forgiveness. Jesus atones for the sin of the world, removing it for redemption: *"But Moses implored the Lord, his God, saying, "Why, O Lord, should your wrath blaze up against your own people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with such great power and with so strong a hand? Why should the Egyptians say, 'With evil intent he brought them out, that he might kill them in the mountains and exterminate them from the face of the earth'? Let your blazing wrath die down; relent in punishing your people. Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac and Israel, and how you swore to them by your own self, saying, 'I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky; and all this land that I promised, I will give your descendants as their perpetual heritage.'" So the Lord relented in the punishment he had threatened to inflict on his people* (Ex 32,11-14). Moses takes the side of the people. Jesus carries on his shoulders the sins of the people to obtain forgiveness from the Father and to expiate the penalties due to them.

Jesus is greater than the prophets: Nathan announces to David that sin is removed. Jesus personally gives the forgiveness of sins: *“Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord." Nathan answered David: "The Lord on his part has forgiven your sin: you shall not die. But since you have utterly spurned the Lord by this deed, the child born to you must surely die" ”* (2Sam 12,13-14). Jesus is infinitely beyond Abraham, beyond Moses and beyond all the prophets of the Old Testament.

*When Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days, it became known that he was at home. Many gathered together so that there was no longer room for them, not even around the door, and he preached the word to them. They came bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. Unable to get near Jesus because of the crowd, they opened up the roof above him. After they had broken through, they let down the mat on which the paralytic was lying. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Child, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there asking themselves, "Why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming. Who but God alone can forgive sins?" Jesus immediately knew in his mind what they were thinking to themselves, so he said, "Why are you thinking such things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, pick up your mat and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority to forgive sins on earth" -  he said to the paralytic, "I say to you, rise, pick up your mat, and go home." He rose, picked up his mat at once, and went away in the sight of everyone. They were all astounded and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this."*

Jesus asks forgiveness for sinners, proclaims conversion to them and always gives forgiveness, if they are willing to return to God. He came to redeem sinners from their imprisonment and eternal death slavery. Instead, he redeems sin and atones for it, offering his body in holocaust and in sacrifice. Moreover from him, through his Holy Spirit, he heals, cures, recreates and regenerates. Jesus is beyond, divinely and infinitely beyond.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints arrange that we understand the very high mystery of Jesus.

**Those who are well do not need a physician**

**SATURDAY 18 JANUARY (Mk 2,13-17)**

Job calls his friends, unable to heal the wound of his spirit: doctors worth nothing, only capable of dirtying and of lies: *“Lo, all this my eye has seen; my ear has heard and perceived it. What you know, I also know; I fall not short of you. But I would speak with the Almighty; I wish to reason with God. You are glossing over falsehoods and offering vain remedies, every one of you! Oh, that you would be altogether silent! This for you would be wisdom. Hear now the rebuke I shall utter and listen to the reproof from my lips. Is it for God that you speak falsehood? Is it for him that you utter deceit? Is it for him that you show partiality? Do you play advocate on behalf of God? Will it be well when he shall search you out? Would you impose on him as one does on men? He will openly rebuke you if even in secret you show partiality. Surely will his majesty affright you and the dread of him fall upon you. Your reminders are ashy maxims, your fabrications are mounds of clay. Be silent, let me alone! that I may speak and give vent to my feelings* (Jb 13,1-13). For them his spirit remains in great sickness and suffering. Even today there are many doctors worth nothing.

Instead, Jeremiah tells the doctors that they should have treated Jerusalem, that they treat its wound lightly: *“Be warned, O Jerusalem, lest I be estranged from you; Lest I turn you into a desert, a land where no man dwells. Thus says the Lord of hosts: Glean, glean like a vine the remnant of Israel; Pass your hand, like a vintager, repeatedly over the tendrils. To whom shall I speak? whom shall I warn, and be heard? See! their ears are uncircumcised, they cannot give heed; See, the word of the Lord has become for them an object of scorn, which they will not have. Small and great alike, all are greedy for gain; prophet and priest, all practice fraud. They would repair, as though it were nought, the injury to my people: "Peace, peace!" they say, though there is no peace. They are odious; they have done abominable things, yet they are not at all ashamed, they know not how to blush”* (Jer 6,8-15). And more: *“How can you say, "We are wise, we have the law of the Lord"? Why, that has been changed into falsehood by the lying pen of the scribes! The wise are confounded, dismayed and ensnared; Since they have rejected the word of the Lord, of what avail is their wisdom? Therefore, I will give their wives to strangers, their fields to spoilers. Small and great alike, all are greedy for gain, prophet and priest, all practice fraud. They would repair, as though it were nought, the injury to the daughter of my people: "Peace, peace!" they say, though there is no peace. They are odious; they have done abominable things, yet they are not at all ashamed, they know not how to blush”* (Jer 8,8-12). Whoever wants to cure others must first let himself be cured by the Word of the Lord. When the Word of our God does not become the only light that illuminates our heart and our soul, we can work nothing for the healing of the brothers. The saint sanctifies. The healed by God heals.

*Once again he went out along the sea. All the crowd came to him and he taught them. As he passed by, he saw Levi, son of Alphaeus, sitting at the customs post. He said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. While he was at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners sat with Jesus and his disciples; for there were many who followed him. Some scribes who were Pharisees saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors and said to his disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" Jesus heard this and said to them (that), "Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."*

Pharisees, scribes, Sadducees and chief priests had divided the world into two. On the one hand there were their sects in which all were saints. On the other hand, separated by an impassable abyss, there were the other men, in their judgment all sinners, with whom they should have had no contact. Instead, Jesus comes and fills this abyss. The Saint places himself at the service of sinners, the Just puts himself at the disposal of the unjust, for their conversion, redemption and salvation. He does not cure lightly the wound of his people. He gives it the divine antibiotic of his flesh and the powerful vaccine of his blood. Then, he leads everyone to the hospital of the Holy Spirit, with his Mother as a nurse.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints give the Church great doctors to cure the world.

**He is the one who will baptize with the holy Spirit**

**SUNDAY 19 JANUARY (Jn 1,29-34)**

The words of Jesus are eternal and immutable truth. The Church lives by this truth. Whoever destroys this truth destroys the Church: *"Jesus answered and said to him, "Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can a person once grown old be born again? Surely he cannot reenter his mother's womb and be born again, can he?" Jesus answered, "Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of flesh is flesh and what is born of spirit is spirit. Do not be amazed that I told you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it wills, and you can hear the sound it makes, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes; so it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit" ”* (Jn 3,3-8). It is not only a necessary, not only indispensable, but divine condition. It is the duty of every minister of the Word to preach conversion, to call to enter the kingdom of God, to baptize in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. The Church is born with baptism, which is the door to access the other sacraments. It is an evil thought to say that baptism is useless and that there is no difference between those who are baptized and those who are not baptized. The new creature is born from the waters of baptism.

The Apostle Paul was seized by Christ Jesus on the road to Damascus. Then, the Lord put him in the hands of Ananias, from whom he received baptism: *"So Ananias went and entered the house; laying his hands on him, he said, "Saul, my brother, the Lord has sent me, Jesus who appeared to you on the way by which you came, that you may regain your sight and be filled with the holy Spirit." Immediately things like scales fell from his eyes and he regained his sight. He got up and was baptized, and when he had eaten, he recovered his strength"* (At 9,17-19). To understand how divine baptism is, in the house of Cornelius Peter baptizes those who were first filled with Holy Spirit. *"While Peter was still speaking these things, the holy Spirit fell upon all who were listening to the word. The circumcised believers who had accompanied Peter were astounded that the gift of the holy Spirit should have been poured out on the Gentiles also, for they could hear them speaking in tongues and glorifying God. Then Peter responded, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people, who have received the holy Spirit even as we have?" He ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for a few days"* (At 10,44-48). Neither the waters without the Holy Spirit, nor the Holy Spirit without immersion in the waters. If baptism is not given or is declared useless, the Church dies. She has no future anymore. The consequences are very heavy. It means that there will no longer be ministers of the Word, there will be no Eucharist or forgiveness of sins anymore, there will no longer be any guarantee of truth in the teaching of the Prophetic Scriptures. Before denying a divine truth, all its consequences must always be considered.

*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."*

Today we are playing a lot, indeed too much, with the divine truths. Every divine truth that is denied, questioned and declared outdated is a serious wound inflicted on the body of the Church. Without baptism in water and in the Holy Spirit there will be neither bishops, nor presbyters and nor baptized. Without the episcopate there will be no priesthood and nor will there ever be Eucharist. We do not eat Christ and we do not live for Christ. Not even the Gospel and Revelation might be preserved in its divine and eternal truth. Without baptism everything collapses and everything dies. This is the reason why Satan has declared war on this sacrament and is using theologians and ministers of the Word to declare it useless, vain and to affirm that by now nothing is needed anymore.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, do not allow the divine truth to be trampled on.

**Then they will fast on that day**

**MONDAY 20 JANUARY (Mk 2,18-22)**

Christian fast, the real fast, is the life governed in every manifestation of it by the four cardinal virtues: prudence, justice, fortitude, temperance and the three theological virtues: faith, hope and charity. If we connect fasting to each of these seven virtues, we will find a new way of fasting. The prophet Isaiah unites fasting, justice, mercy, charity and commandments. Let's listen to what he reveals: *"Lo, on your fast day you carry out your own pursuits, and drive all your laborers. Yes, your fast ends in quarreling and fighting, striking with wicked claw. Would that today you might fast so as to make your voice heard on high! Is this the manner of fasting I wish, of keeping a day of penance: That a man bow his head like a reed, and lie in sackcloth and ashes? Do you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? This, rather, is the fasting that I wish: releasing those bound unjustly, untying the thongs of the yoke; Setting free the oppressed, breaking every yoke; Sharing your bread with the hungry, sheltering the oppressed and the homeless; Clothing the naked when you see them, and not turning your back on your own. Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your wound shall quickly be healed; Your vindication shall go before you, and the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer, you shall cry for help, and he will say: Here I am! If you remove from your midst oppression, false accusation and malicious speech; If you bestow your bread on the hungry and satisfy the afflicted; Then light shall rise for you in the darkness, and the gloom shall become for you like midday; Then the Lord will guide you always and give you plenty even on the parched land. He will renew your strength, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring whose water never fails. The ancient ruins shall be rebuilt for your sake, and the foundations from ages past you shall raise up; "Repairer of the breach," they shall call you, "Restorer of ruined homesteads." If you hold back your foot on the sabbath from following your own pursuits on my holy day; If you call the sabbath a delight, and the Lord's holy day honorable; If you honor it by not following your ways, seeking your own interests, or speaking with malice - Then you shall delight in the Lord, and I will make you ride on the heights of the earth; I will nourish you with the heritage of Jacob, your father, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken”* (Is 58,1-14)*.*

To St. Paul fasting is the true imitation of Christ Jesus: *“Now as you excel in every respect, in faith, discourse, knowledge, all earnestness, and in the love we have for you, may you excel in this gracious act also. I say this not by way of command, but to test the genuineness of your love by your concern for others. For you know the gracious act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that for your sake he became poor although he was rich, so that by his poverty you might become rich”* (2Cor 8,1.9,14). One deprives himself of the superfluous so that the brothers have the essential. But for this it is necessary to abandon any vice that devours the substances more than the ox the grass. With a single vice eradicated one man could give life to ten of his brothers.

*The disciples of John and of the Pharisees were accustomed to fast. People came to him and objected, "Why do the disciples of John and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?" Jesus answered them, "Can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them they cannot fast. But the days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast on that day. No one sews a piece of unshrunken cloth on an old cloak. If he does, its fullness pulls away, the new from the old, and the tear gets worse. Likewise, no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the skins are ruined. Rather, new wine is poured into fresh wineskins."*

Before the world of poverty forced to fast every day of the year, our liturgical fasting is useless. It is urgent to give evangelical truth to this practice. It might only be given if the Christian begins a real fight to free himself from his vices, the first of all that of great vanity. Large amounts of capital are spent and debts are also made to cure this vice. Among us the culture of the most ephemeral ephemeral that obscures our eyes and makes our heart of stone, rendering it incapable of seeing the futility in which we consume our existence preparing it for eternal fire, reigns.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, help us to get out of the hell of vanity and futility.

**JANUARY 2020**

***THIRD DECADE OF JANUARY***

**The Sabbath was made for man**

**TUESDAY 21 JANUARY (Mk 2,23-28)**

What did David do when he was in need? Here's what the Holy Scripture says: *"David went to Ahimelech, the priest of Nob, who came trembling to meet him and asked, "Why are you alone? Is there no one with you?" David answered the priest: "The king gave me a commission and told me to let no one know anything about the business on which he sent me or the commission he gave me. For that reason I have arranged a meeting place with my men. Now what have you on hand? Give me five loaves, or whatever you can find." But the priest replied to David, "I have no ordinary bread on hand, only holy bread; if the men have abstained from women, you may eat some of that." David answered the priest: "We have indeed been segregated from women as on previous occasions. Whenever I go on a journey, all the young men are consecrated - even for a secular journey. All the more so today, when they are consecrated at arms!" So the priest gave him holy bread, for no other bread was on hand except the showbread which had been removed from the Lord's presence and replaced by fresh bread when it was taken away. One of Saul's servants was there that day, detained before the Lord; his name was Doeg the Edomite, and he was Saul's chief henchman. David then asked Ahimelech: "Do you have a spear or a sword on hand? I brought along neither my sword nor my weapons, because the king's business was urgent." The priest replied: "The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you killed in the Vale of the Terebinth, is here (wrapped in a mantle) behind an ephod. If you wish to take that, take it; there is no sword here except that one." David said: "There is none to match it. Give it to me!"”* (1Sam 21,2-10). David and his companions are hungry. The priest has nothing to offer them. But there are twelve sacred loaves before the Lord. No one could eat these breads, except the priests. In the face of hunger, having ascertained that they were ritually pure, he gives them the Lord's bread to eat. Faced with a person's vital, essential needs, all ritual laws are set aside and resumed when the need is over. Can you pick ears of corn for hunger on a Sabbath? No commandment of the Lord forbids these things. Even on a Sabbath, man feeds himself. The third commandment prohibits servile work. It asks for the rest of the earth and of all animals in the service of man. But it does not ask that for hunger one cannot take some fruit and sustain himself.

Being experts in filtering the gnat, the Pharisees were able to swallow all the camels of the transgression of the commandments - Jesus says that they are really very navigated in eluding the Law of the Lord - they rise against Christ the Lord, accusing him of being a bad Master. Certainly it is neither good, nor excellent, nor a perfect master who, seeing his disciples transgress the Sabbath Law, does not intervene, but rather allows it to be transgressed. Jesus replies that picking ears of corn does not break God's Law in any way, just as David, out of hunger, ate the sacred bread and did not offend the Law of Moses. Then he adds that He is the truth of the Law and the truth of the interpretation of the Law. The whole Law of Moses must be read, understood and interpreted by his Law, by his Word and by his Commandments.

*As he was passing through a field of grain on the Sabbath, his disciples began to make a path while picking the heads of grain. At this the Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?" He said to them, "Have you never read what David did when he was in need and he and his companions were hungry? How he went into the house of God when Abiathar was high priest and ate the bread of offering that only the priests could lawfully eat, and shared it with his companions?" Then he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. That is why the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath."*

It is truth. The entire Old Testament in every prescription, statute, law and commandment must be read, understood, interpreted and lived by the Word of Jesus and by the example that he left us. Appealing to the Law of Moses serves no purpose. That Law must be brought to the fulfillment that Jesus the Lord gave it. "I have not come to abolish the Law and the Prophets, but to fulfill them": with these words, the doctrine of the Pharisees is declared out of course. It must be abandoned. It has no value.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints arrange that Jesus' disciples fall in love with his Word.

**Took counsel against him to put him to death.**

**WEDNESDAY 22 JANUARY (Mk 3,1-6)**

Between the religion taught by scribes and Pharisees and the one preached and lived by Christ Jesus there is the same abyss that separates light from darkness and heaven from hell. Might the two religions live together? They could live together if there were no diaspora from the religion of the Pharisees to the religion of Christ Jesus. They could stay together if the religion of Jesus was not an explicit condemnation of the religion of the scribes and Pharisees. We know that Jesus openly condemns this religion and their believers. It is enough to listen to even a few of the "woes" against them and it will be understood that no cohabitation might ever reign, provided that the exodus towards Christ Jesus is not permitted: *"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites. You lock the kingdom of heaven before human beings. You do not enter yourselves, nor do you allow entrance to those trying to enter. "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites. You traverse sea and land to make one convert, and when that happens you make him a child of Gehenna twice as much as yourselves. "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites. You pay tithes of mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier things of the law: judgment and mercy and fidelity. (But) these you should have done, without neglecting the others. Blind guides, who strain out the gnat and swallow the camel! "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites. You cleanse the outside of cup and dish, but inside they are full of plunder and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee, cleanse first the inside of the cup, so that the outside also may be clean. "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites. You are like whitewashed tombs, which appear beautiful on the outside, but inside are full of dead men's bones and every kind of filth. Even so, on the outside you appear righteous, but inside you are filled with hypocrisy and evildoing”* (Cfr. 23,1-39). These are not marginal and not even interpretations questions. Instead they are problems of essence, substance and truth.

Pharisees scribes have hasty methods to resolve disputes: legally eliminating those who carry a new thought. What the Evangelist Mark reports "*And the Pharisees immediately went out with the Herodians and held counsel against him to kill him*" *is also reported by the Evangelists Matthew and Luke:*  *“But the Pharisees went out and took counsel against him to put him to death. When Jesus realized this, he withdrew from that place”* (Mt 12,14-15). *“But they became enraged and discussed together what they might do to Jesus”* (Lk 6,11). It is evident that these are decisions of sin and not of eternal wisdom. Whoever is governed by divine wisdom must always carry out a great discernment. He must abandon what is less true to embrace the truer, the less good to adhere to what is better. He must also leave what is best to welcome the very best. This law applies to every man, every religion, every culture, every science and every scientific or profane thought. Since God is the utmost good, the utmost light, the utmost truth and the utmost justice and holiness, welcoming the utmost and letting oneself be led by it is the obligation of man, not of a man, but of man, of the creature made by God in his image.

*Again he entered the synagogue. There was a man there who had a withered hand. They watched him closely to see if he would cure him on the Sabbath so that they might accuse him. He said to the man with the withered hand, "Come up here before us." Then he said to them, "Is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath rather than to do evil, to save life rather than to destroy it?" But they remained silent. Looking around at them with anger and grieved at their hardness of heart, he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out and his hand was restored. The Pharisees went out and immediately took counsel with the Herodians against him to put him to death.*

No law, either of God or of men, might ever forbid doing good. There are no days where one can abstain from doing good. The good must always be done well, to all, without any distinction. Why does this divine and eternal law annoy the Pharisees? Because they should have confessed that the doctrine of Jesus is better than theirs. In doing so they would have had to recognize Jesus as the true Master in Israel. Doing this would have meant losing their authority. They choose to kill Jesus.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints arrange that every Christian always chooses the purest truth.

**You are the Son of God**

**THURDAY 23 JANUARY (Mk 3,7-12)**

Out of hatred, the unclean spirits reveal that Jesus is the Son of God, his Messiah. They want his ruin. The children of Israel are not waiting for a Crucified Messiah. For them the Christ of God is a new David that breaks down all the Goliaths in the world and frees their land from every foreign invasion. Not only is this Messiah according to the truth of God, but neither would he have had long life on earth. For Rome there was only one king and one emperor. All the others had to be eliminated or reduced to subjection. The Messiah of prophecy has a very special universal mission: *“Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased, Upon whom I have put my spirit; he shall bring forth justice to the nations, Not crying out, not shouting, not making his voice heard in the street. A bruised reed he shall not break, and a smoldering wick he shall not quench, Until he establishes justice on the earth; the coastlands will wait for his teaching. Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spreads out the earth with its crops, Who gives breath to its people and spirit to those who walk on it: I, the Lord, have called you for the victory of justice, I have grasped you by the hand; I formed you, and set you as a covenant of the people, a light for the nations, To open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness”* (Is 42,1-7). The true Messiah is the bearer of light, true hope and authentic liberation.

But the Messiah of prophecies is surrounded by an unspeakable suffering: *“The Lord God has given me a well-trained tongue, That I might know how to speak to the weary a word that will rouse them. Morning after morning he opens my ear that I may hear; And I have not rebelled, have not turned back. I gave my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who plucked my beard; My face I did not shield from buffets and spitting. The Lord God is my help, therefore I am not disgraced; I have set my face like flint, knowing that I shall not be put to shame. He is near who upholds my right; if anyone wishes to oppose me, let us appear together. Who disputes my right? Let him confront me. See, the Lord God is my help; who will prove me wrong?”* (Is 50,4-9). As St. Paull reveals it to the Corinthians we know that a crucifies Messiah is scandal and foolishness. *“For since in the wisdom of God the world did not come to know God through wisdom, it was the will of God through the foolishness of the proclamation to save those who have faith. For Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, Jews and Greeks alike, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength”* (1Cor 1,21-25). These are but two of the very many prophecies about the Messiah that we find in the Law, in the Prophets and in the Psalms. Great suffering is the essence of the mission of the Christ of God. It is all described and prophesied in the smallest details.

*Jesus withdrew toward the sea with his disciples. A large number of people (followed) from Galilee and from Judea. Hearing what he was doing, a large number of people came to him also from Jerusalem, from Idumea, from beyond the Jordan, and from the neighbourhood of Tyre and Sidon. He told his disciples to have a boat ready for him because of the crowd, so that they would not crush him. He had cured many and, as a result, those who had diseases were pressing upon him to touch him. And whenever unclean spirits saw him they would fall down before him and shout, "You are the Son of God." He warned them sternly not to make him known.*

Jesus does not want his identity to be revealed and imposes severely impure spirits not to reveal it. Today, the path of faith does not pass through revelation, but through history. Everything written for him in the Word of God must be fulfilled first and then his truth and identity can be preached without any reservation. Jesus is in the Holy Spirit and knows that today there is no other way than that of history. Whoever is in the Spirit of God will always know through what way the truth must be reached. Whoever is not in the Holy Spirit will always walk according to wrong ways and cause serious damage.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints ensure that we never go through ways of error and lies.

**That they might be with him and he might send them forth to preach**

**FRIDAY 24 JANUARY (Mk 3,13-19)**

In the Old Testament no prophet chose the prophets that would have continued his mission after him. Only to Elijah does the Lord command to choose Elisha to be a prophet after him tomorrow: *"Go, take the road back to the desert near Damascus," the Lord said to him. "When you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king of Aram. Then you shall anoint Jehu, son of Nimshi, as king of Israel, and Elisha, son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah, as prophet to succeed you. If anyone escapes the sword of Hazael, Jehu will kill him. If he escapes the sword if Jehu, Elisha will kill him. Yet I will leave seven thousand men in Israel - all those who have not knelt to Baal or kissed him." Elijah set out, and came upon Elisha, son of Shaphat, as he was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen; he was following the twelfth. Elijah went over to him and threw his cloak over him. Elisha left the oxen, ran after Elijah, and said, "Please, let me kiss my father and mother good-bye, and I will follow you." "Go back!" Elijah answered. "Have I done anything to you?" Elisha left him and, taking the yoke of oxen, slaughtered them; he used the plowing equipment for fuel to boil their flesh, and gave it to his people to eat. Then he left and followed Elijah as his attendant* (1Kings 19,15-21). No prophet receives a mission equal to that of another prophet. But everyone carries out a very particular ministry, unique in the history of salvation.

Elisha knows that without the Spirit of the Lord no mission might be carried out and asks Elijah for an inheritance two thirds of his Spirit. He really wants to be his heir: *“Fifty of the guild prophets followed, and when the two stopped at the Jordan, stood facing them at a distance. Elijah took his mantle, rolled it up and struck the water, which divided, and both crossed over on dry ground. When they had crossed over, Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask for whatever I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha answered, "May I receive a double portion of your spirit." "You have asked something that is not easy," he replied. "Still, if you see me taken up from you, your wish will be granted; otherwise not." As they walked on conversing, a flaming chariot and flaming horses came between them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. When Elisha saw it happen he cried out, "My father! my father! Israel's chariots and drivers!" But when he could no longer see him, Elisha gripped his own garment and tore it in two. Then he picked up Elijah's mantle which had fallen from him, and went back and stood at the bank of the Jordan”* (2Kings 2,7-13). With Jesus there are no heirs or even successors. He is the Immortal, because he is the Risen One. He is the Eternal Living. He is the only Mediator between the Father and Humanity. Everything must happen in him, with him and for him. The disciples must stay with him so that they learn how to obey the Father in everything. Tomorrow their mission, which must be lived with his Holy Spirit, can only be accomplished if they have learned from the Master how to listen to the Lord.

*He went up the mountain and summoned those whom he wanted and they came to him. He appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) that they might be with him and he might send them forth to preach and to have authority to drive out demons: (he appointed the twelve:) Simon, whom he named Peter; James, son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James, whom he named Boanerges, that is, sons of thunder; Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus; Thaddeus, Simon the Cananean, and Judas Iscariot who betrayed him.*

The will of the Father is the will of Christ. The will of Christ must be the will of the disciples together with the obedience of Christ to the Father. If they do not learn how to obey Christ in the Holy Spirit, Jesus' mission will be shipwrecked for them. It might never produce salvation and redemption, because only the great obedience to Christ in the Holy Spirit produces these fruits. Elisha asks Elijah two thirds of his Spirit. Jesus gives his entire Spirit to all. However, his Spirit is the Spirit of communion and produces fruits of eternal life only in the great communion of the Apostles and of the whole body of Christ. When one comes out of communion, it is not the Spirit of Christ Jesus the one that works, but each one is moved and driven only by his heart. This truth must never be forgotten.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints arrange that the disciples of Jesus live in perfect communion.

**Proclaim the gospel to every creature**

**SATURDAY 25 JANUARY (Mk 16,15-18)**

It is the mission of the Christ of God to bring the Light of truth, justice and mercy to every man, to the ends of the earth. Lord Jesus, the true and only Messiah, lives this divine office or ministry through his body which is the Church. In the Church, the Apostles are responsible for announcing the Word and the gift of Light to every man. In hierarchical communion and obedience with the Apostles, all the members of the body of Christ Jesus. As long as there is only one man on earth who has not yet received the announcement of the Gospel, it is the responsibility of the Apostles to provide. It is the collective responsibility and of the whole apostolic college. If one does not provide, the other is obliged to make every effort and will to provide for it.

Who governs the body of the Church, in her Pastors and in her Faithful, is the Holy Spirit, in the Holy Spirit it is the Father. The Father, in the Holy Spirit, always calls and always adds new Pastors and new Faithful, so that the body of Christ can live its universal ministry. The Holy Spirit acts in two different ways. Within the body he intervenes to revitalize it giving new life to some of its members. It is the mystery of true holiness, the highest daily and perennial fruit of the Spirit of the Lord. But he also draws new members from outside to give to the body of Christ a more missionary impulse and a greater evangelizing imprint. We read in the Acts of the Apostles: *“There was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias, and the Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight and ask at the house of Judas for a man from Tarsus named Saul. He is there praying, and (in a vision) he has seen a man named Ananias come in and lay (his) hands on him, that he may regain his sight." But Ananias replied, "Lord, I have heard from many sources about this man, what evil things he has done to your holy ones in Jerusalem. And here he has authority from the chief priests to imprison all who call upon your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for this man is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before Gentiles, kings, and Israelites, and I will show him what he will have to suffer for my name"”* (Cf. At 9,1-18). Who calls Saul is the Lord. The Lord is the one who opens him the way. the Lord is always the one who watches on his Church.

Even the mission to the pagans of Saul is wanted directly by the Holy Spirit: *“Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Symeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who was a close friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then, completing their fasting and prayer, they laid hands on them and sent them off”* (At 13,1-3). A Church that lets herself be moved by the Holy Spirit is always missionary. Instead when it is the heart of the individual Apostles or of the individual Faithful thao acts, then the first fruit of our heart is the death of the mission. When the mission dies, the Church dies. Either the body of Christ is a missionary or it is no longer the body of Christ. In place of the Spirit, the works of the flesh reign in it. Never might the mission of the Light arise from the flesh.

*He said to them, "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned. These signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will drive out demons, they will speak new languages. They will pick up serpents (with their hands), and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not harm them. They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."*

But is the gift of Light enough to enter the mystery of salvation? The Light must be given, but to produce salvation it must be welcomed, lending all obedience to the Word. If the Light is not accepted in faith, it does not give eternal life. If the Light is not transformed into the purest and daily obedience to the Word, neither does it produce salvation. Today this truth has been abrogated by the disciple of Jesus. Salvation is given to all even without mission, without the gift of light, without acceptance of it and without obedience. The first fruit is the death of the evangelizing mission. The second fruit is immorality.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, fill us with the Holy Spirit to be missionaries of Light.

**Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men**

**SUNDAY 26 JANUARY (Mt 4,12-23)**

Creator of all that has been, that is and that will be, both materially and spiritually, is only the Lord. But that of the Lord is not a static creation, which takes place once and for all. Instead, his is a dynamic creation. Our God was not the Creator. He is today. He will be tomorrow and always. He always works to create new things on our earth. We are moment by moment a fruit of his love and his truth, in the image of which He today and always wants to create us. Yet another truth must be brought to light. The beginnings of creation, or our entry into life, are without our will. Who does not exist cannot be asked if he wants to exist. He does not exist. From the moment of existence God creates us, if we want to be created. He renews us, if we want to be renewed. He leads us to the beauty of our creation which is the highest holiness, if we want to be sanctified by Him. Without our will our God might do nothing for us. He might inundate us with every grace, but it is always necessary that we make the grace of God our own and let ourselves be made by him in the truth.

Today Jesus says to Simon and Andrew: *"Come after me, I will make you fishers of men"*. When will he make them fishers of men? Every day, moment by moment. Every day they must let themselves be made fishermen. Not even after Pentecost Peter is a perfect fisher of men. Even after, day by day, Jesus must make him a fisher of men: *“The next day, while they were on their way and nearing the city, Peter went up to the roof terrace to pray at about noontime. He was hungry and wished to eat, and while they were making preparations he fell into a trance. He saw heaven opened and something resembling a large sheet coming down, lowered to the ground by its four corners. In it were all the earth's four-legged animals and reptiles and the birds of the sky. A voice said to him, "Get up, Peter. Slaughter and eat." But Peter said, "Certainly not, sir. For never have I eaten anything profane and unclean." The voice spoke to him again, a second time, "What God has made clean, you are not to call profane." This happened three times, and then the object was taken up into the sky. While Peter was in doubt about the meaning of the vision he had seen, the men sent by Cornelius asked for Simon's house and arrived at the entrance. They called out inquiring whether Simon, who is called Peter, was staying there. As Peter was pondering the vision, the Spirit said (to him), "There are three men here looking for you. So get up, go downstairs, and accompany them without hesitation, because I have sent them"”* (At 10,9-20). Peter still does not know how the people are fished and carried into the boat of the kingdom of heaven. In the Holy Spirit, Jesus makes him a fisher of peoples and nations. The "I will make" of Jesus is dynamic, not static and lasts a lifetime, not a moment.

*When he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what had been said through Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled: "Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the way to the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who sit in darkness have seen a great light, on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death light has arisen." From that time on, Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen. He said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him. He walked along from there and saw two other brothers, James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat, with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed him. He went around all of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and curing every disease and illness among the people.*

Every day the Lord must make us baptized and confirmed. Every day he must make us presbyters, bishops and popes. Every day he must create the unity and indissolubility of the couple. Jesus will make if man lets himself be made. Jesus' dynamism must be the disciple's dynamism. Instead, we think that everything is static. We do not let ourselves be made and we fail our lives.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, help us to let ourselves be made every day by Christ the Lord.

**He is possessed by Beelzebul**

**MONDAY 27 JANUARY (Mk 3,22-30)**

In his First Letter, Saint John offers us a principle so that we can always know who comes from God and who instead comes from the devil: *“Children, let no one deceive you. The person who acts in righteousness is righteous, just as he is righteous. Whoever sins belongs to the devil, because the devil has sinned from the beginning. Indeed, the Son of God was revealed to destroy the works of the devil. No one who is begotten by God commits sin, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot sin because he is begotten by God. In this way, the children of God and the children of the devil are made plain; no one who fails to act in righteousness belongs to God, nor anyone who does not love his brother. For this is the message you have heard from the beginning: we should love one another, unlike Cain who belonged to the evil one and slaughtered his brother. Why did he slaughter him? Because his own works were evil, and those of his brother righteous. Do not be amazed, (then,) brothers, if the world hates you. We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers. Whoever does not love remains in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life remaining in* *him”* (1Jn 3,7-15). Jesus cannot be possessed by the devil because all his words attest that they are most pure light, truth, charity, compassion, mercy, love, justice and piety. All his works that are always and only the purest good reveal it. When a person consecrates his whole life to the greater good towards his brothers, when for love he faces all suffering, when he earns nothing humanly speaking, indeed the good he does is the object of contempt, derision, slander and lies and despite everything there it is perseverance, all these things attest to his origin from God. There is no real good except from God.

Instead, he is from the Evil One who transforms good into evil, light into darkness, the omnipotence of God with which one acts in Satan's license because he drives impure spirits away. This is a sin against both the historical and revealed truth. Being a combat to destroy the truth, it becomes a sin against the Holy Spirit. Today many of Jesus' disciples are exposed to this sin, which is unforgivable and unjustifiable in life and in death. Many are those who are playing both with the eternal, divine, human truth of Christ the Lord, as well as with his mission of Light, truth, Grace and Eternal Life. Today there is a hidden and invisible struggle to destroy Christ Jesus in all that is revealed truth, sanctioned by the Holy Spirit and witnessed by history in him. Since the Church is from the truth of Christ, if Christ falls, the Church falls. If the Church falls, pope, bishops, presbyters, deacons, baptized and confirmed fall from their truth. They turn into harmful falsehood and lie for the world. Defending Christ, the Church defends herself. But even the Christian defends his uniqueness and difference in history.

*The scribes who had come from Jerusalem said, "He is possessed by Beelzebul," and "By the prince of demons he drives out demons." Summoning them, he began to speak to them in parables, "How can Satan drive out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand; that is the end of him. But no one can enter a strong man's house to plunder his property unless he first ties up the strong man. Then he can plunder his house. Amen, I say to you, all sins and all blasphemies that people utter will be forgiven them. But whoever blasphemes against the holy Spirit will never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an everlasting sin." For they had said, "He has an unclean spirit."*

Faith is most pure logic. Logic is divine intelligence and rationality. When a man of faith is devoid of logic and rationality, he attests that he is without the Holy Spirit. Whoever does not see that the Church is the body of Christ, sent to make disciples of all peoples, and declares Christ not necessary for salvation, he declares the whole body of Christ not necessary for salvation. If the body of Christ is not necessary, what is the Church for? Here is our sin against the Holy Spirit. Here is how big our foolishness is. We are blind and guides of blind people. We are destroying ourselves, by destroying Christ.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints make us return to the most pure sources of Christ's truth.

**Who are my mother and (my) brothers?**

**TUESDAY 28 JANUARY (Mk 3,31-36)**

What Jesus says to his Apostles, applies infinitely more for his Person. Christ the Lord chooses his Father. He is only from his will. He loves everyone but from the will of his Father: *"Do not think that I have come to bring peace upon the earth. I have come to bring not peace but the sword. For I have come to set a man 'against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and one's enemies will be those of his household.' "Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. "Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me. Whoever receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever receives a righteous man because he is righteous will receive a righteous man's reward. And whoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink because he is a disciple - amen, I say to you, he will surely not lose his reward"”* (Mt 10,34-42). If Jesus loved from his heart, from his will, from his desires or thoughts, he could no longer be of the Father. God does not want a part of us. He wants all of us. He doesn't know what to do with people who give themselves to him in parts.

The rules for being his disciples and apostles are also well defined. We surrender to Christ, we must forget the world. The before delivery does not exist: *"As they were proceeding on their journey someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." Jesus answered him, "Foxes have dens and birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to rest his head." And to another he said, "Follow me." But he replied, "(Lord,) let me go first and bury my father." But he answered him, "Let the dead bury their dead. But you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." And another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but first let me say farewell to my family at home." (To him) Jesus said, "No one who sets a hand to the plow and looks to what was left behind is fit for the kingdom of God"”* (Lk 9,57-62). If the before exists, the after will be conditioned. One is of Christ and of the world. Of heaven and earth. From God and from us. This mixture is not pleasing to the Lord, because he cannot dispose of our life in everything. He cannot send us to Nineveh to preach, because we are engaged in our affairs. If we give our life to Him, it must always be from his will. If we keep it for ourselves, it will have to be only from his Gospel, to bring it into the great holiness. The whole life of Jesus is of the Father. He lives to do only the will of the Father today, tomorrow and always.

*His mother and his brothers arrived. Standing outside they sent word to him and called him. A crowd seated around him told him, "Your mother and your brothers (and your sisters) are outside asking for you." But he said to them in reply, "Who are my mother and (my) brothers?" And looking around at those seated in the circle he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. (For) whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."*

A person's life is fulfilled in time. If life is of the Father, time is also of the Father. Can Jesus take time from his Father to give himself to others? This is the reason why He replies: *"Here is my mother and my brothers! Because whoever does the will of God, this is for me brother, sister and mother”*. The Virgin Mary knows that Jesus is entirely of his Father. She respects the gift made by Jesus to the Father. She is the true Mother. His relatives do not respect the gift made by Jesus to the Father. They are not his true brothers. For him they are a true temptation. They come to distract him from his mission. In the Holy Spirit, Jesus sees the danger and does not fall into it. Whoever consecrates himself to Christ the Lord must be entirely His. He belongs to Him, if He is from Him. He is from Him, if He is always from His will. Being of Him only for a few moments and not even from his will, it is not being His. We are of ourselves. Even the mission is from ourselves. If it is from ourselves, it will never produce fruits of eternal life. Never will Jesus make his own a thing that is ours, done from our will. From the moment you decide to be his, you have to be it in everything and always. The gift is irreversible. One does not give himself and takes himself back again.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints ensure that our gift is full without turning back.

# Hear this! A sower went out to sow

# WEDNESDAY 29 JANUARY (Mk 4,1-20)

Paul is certainly one who has understood well the parable of the Sower. His life is entirely consecrated to the announcement of the Gospel: *“Although I am free in regard to all, I have made myself a slave to all so as to win over as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew to win over Jews; to those under the law I became like one under the law - though I myself am not under the law - to win over those under the law. To those outside the law I became like one outside the law - though I am not outside God's law but within the law of Christ - to win over those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, to win over the weak. I have become all things to all, to save at least some. All this I do for the sake of the gospel, so that I too may have a share in it”* (cf. 1Cor 9, 19-23). He transmits this unlimited love for the Word to his faithful disciple Timothy: *“But you, remain faithful to what you have learned and believed, because you know from whom you learned it, and that from infancy you have known (the) sacred scriptures, which are capable of giving you wisdom for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for refutation, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that one who belongs to God may be competent, equipped for every good work. I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingly power: proclaim the word; be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient; convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience and teaching. For the time will come when people will not tolerate sound doctrine but, following their own desires and insatiable curiosity, will accumulate teachers and will stop listening to the truth and will be diverted to myths. But you, be self-possessed in all circumstances; put up with hardship; perform the work of an evangelist; fulfill your ministry”* (2Tm 3,14-4,5). The Church lives on the announcement of the Gospel. The Gospel proclaimed for her is more than the breath of life. When she no longer preaches the gospel, she will be a rotting corpse.

*On another occasion he began to teach by the sea. A very large crowd gathered around him so that he got into a boat on the sea and sat down. And the whole crowd was beside the sea on land. And he taught them at length in parables, and in the course of his instruction he said to them, "Hear this! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Other seed fell on rocky ground where it had little soil. It sprang up at once because the soil was not deep. And when the sun rose, it was scorched and it withered for lack of roots. Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it and it produced no grain. And some seed fell on rich soil and produced fruit. It came up and grew and yielded thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold." He added, "Whoever has ears to hear ought to hear." And when he was alone, those present along with the Twelve questioned him about the parables. He answered them, "The mystery of the kingdom of God has been granted to you. But to those outside everything comes in parables, so that 'they may look and see but not perceive, and hear and listen but not understand, in order that they may not be converted and be forgiven.'" Jesus said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? Then how will you understand any of the parables? The sower sows the word. These are the ones on the path where the word is sown. As soon as they hear, Satan comes at once and takes away the word sown in them. And these are the ones sown on rocky ground who, when they hear the word, receive it at once with joy. But they have no root; they last only for a time. Then when tribulation or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. Those sown among thorns are another sort. They are the people who hear the word, but worldly anxiety, the lure of riches, and the craving for other things intrude and choke the word, and it bears no fruit. But those sown on rich soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit thirty and sixty and a hundredfold."*

Whoever sows the Word of Christ Jesus widely he will largely reap. Who will sow poorly, he will scarcely harvest. Whoever does not sow will reduce the Church to a field in which every weed of heresy, idolatry and immorality will grow. Sowing is a command that obliges all ministers of the Word and every other disciple of Jesus.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, make us excellent sowers of the Gospel of Christ the Lord.

**Anyone who has ears to hear ought to hear**

**THURDAY 30 JANUARY (Mk 4,21-25)**

The Word of God is entrusted to man, who is eyes, ears, mouth, heart, intelligence, deductive and argumentative rationality, discernment, learning and experience. A farmer knows that if he does not sow, he does not reap. If he does not plant trees he cannot harvest fruit. If he does not pour his sweat on the earth, he will not be able to eat his bread. He knows it and for this reason he lets himself be consumed every day by his work. Today, we have lost our truth. We want science, but without studying. We want to feed ourselves without fatiguing. We want good by pursuing evil and life by cultivating death. We want the fruits of virtue while in our hearts we let all the weeds of vices grow. We want a harmonious society, but transgressing every commandment that the Lord has placed as a hedge so that in his people neither superstition, immorality, nor idolatry and nor any other injustice could enter. Commandments are not wanted, every spiritual, moral, economic and social disorder remains. If we don't want Christ, we don't even want the fruits that ripen from his Gospel. Instead we ask every man for evangelical fruits while we deny and reject the Gospel.

The Apostles of Jesus - and in a hierarchical obedience each of the Lord's disciples - must be the light of the world and the salt of the earth. They must illuminate the world with the radiant light that emanates from the face of Christ, of the Crucified who is the Risen One. If they, sent by Jesus to illuminate the world, put the light under the bushel or under the bed, one cannot hope that the world will be illuminated. Jesus did not send others. He sent them, his disciples, each with a particular mission. That is how Saint Paul, aware of this very high responsibility, exhorts the Philippians to be the light of the world: *“So then, my beloved, obedient as you have always been, not only when I am present but all the more now when I am absent, work out your salvation with fear and trembling. For God is the one who, for his good purpose, works in you both to desire and to work. Do everything without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine like lights in the world, as you hold on to the word of life, so that my boast for the day of Christ may be that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. But, even if I am poured out as a libation upon the sacrificial service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with all of you. In the same way you also should rejoice and share your joy with me”* (Phil 2,12-18). As the sun and the other stars illuminate from above, so too the Apostles and every other disciple must enlighten humanity. This obligation will never fail, because it is the command of Christ Jesus. No man on earth might ever repeal a command that comes from the Lord, from the Redeemer and from the Saviour, because it is the command that comes from the heart of the Father, in the wisdom of the Holy Spirit.

*He said to them, "Is a lamp brought in to be placed under a bushel basket or under a bed, and not to be placed on a lampstand? For there is nothing hidden except to be made visible; nothing is secret except to come to light. Anyone who has ears to hear ought to hear." He also told them, "Take care what you hear. The measure with which you measure will be measured out to you, and still more will be given to you. To the one who has, more will be given; from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away."*

Nor can it be thought that it is possible to live as true disciples of Jesus in anonymity. The Word of Jesus is life, it is not a theory and a sterile philosophy. Poverty in spirit can be seen and so too purity of heart, meekness, hunger and thirst for justice. Victory over every temptation, the abandonment of every vice aree also seen. But above all we see if we announce or do not announce the Gospel. Since the announcement of the Gospel is a command, if we obey and live this command we are disciples of Jesus, otherwise we have denied and betrayed our vocation and mission and our being disciples of Jesus. But Satan is astute and today he is teaching us, who from disciples of Jesus we are turning into his pupils, that the Gospel is of no use in order to obtain salvation. He does not exist and hell is empty. Eternity is made only of Paradise.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, do not allow Christians to become disciples of Satan.

**He knows not how**

**FRIDAY 31 JANUARY (Mk 4,26-34)**

To understand what Jesus teaches his disciples through the seed that is thrown into the ground and then slowly first it sprouts, then grows, then ripens, then it is reaped and the fruit is collected to be turned into bread, we must necessarily let ourselves be helped by the Gospel according to John: *"The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me"* (Jn 12,23-26). The Father is the one who sows his seed, Christ Jesus, into the field of the world. Jesus falls to the earth, dies, sprouts as a new seed of eternal life and produces much fruit of conversion and salvation. Christ Jesus physically dies, physically rises with a spiritual, glorious, incorruptible and immortal body.

Jesus throws his Apostles into the world. They too, like the Master, must die to themselves, if they want to produce fruit of eternal life. Every day they must be consumed in a spiritual holocaust, in a sacrifice that asks for the renunciation of their will. Then, if it is the will of the Father, they will also pass through physical death, through the testimony given to Christ Jesus with their own blood. Saint Paul sees his life as a daily death for the Gospel: *"Moreover, why are we endangering ourselves all the time? Every day I face death; I swear it by the pride in you (brothers) that I have in Christ Jesus our Lord. If at Ephesus I fought with beasts, so to speak, what benefit was it to me?"* (1Cor 15,30-32). The first death of who wants to produce fruit for the kingdom of God is that of sin, vice and transgression of the Commandments. The second death is that of the personal will. Christ Jesus never knew a single venial transgression and was never from his will not even driven by charity or compassion. The Spirit of the Lord was always the one that moved him to compassion and piety according to the will of his Father. The third death is not sparing yourself in anything to be light of the world and salt of the earth. St. Paul also lived daily this third death: *"And so I solemnly declare to you this day that I am not responsible for the blood of any of you, for I did not shrink from proclaiming to you the entire plan of God"* (At 20,26-27). The fourth death is that of martyrdom for Christ, the seal on the former three deaths.

*He said, "This is how it is with the kingdom of God; it is as if a man were to scatter seed on the land and would sleep and rise night and day and the seed would sprout and grow, he knows not how. Of its own accord the land yields fruit, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the grain is ripe, he wields the sickle at once, for the harvest has come." He said, "To what shall we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable can we use for it? It is like a mustard seed that, when it is sown in the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on the earth. But once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the largest of plants and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the sky can dwell in its shade." With many such parables he spoke the word to them as they were able to understand it. Without parables he did not speak to them, but to his own disciples he explained everything in private.*

Every disciple of Jesus, if he wants to produce fruit for the kingdom of God, must let himself be thrown every day by Christ Jesus into the heart of the Father to be cultivated by the Holy Spirit. His life must be handed over to the Son, so that the Son may deliver it to the Father, so that the Father may hand it over to the Holy Spirit. If the Christian lacks this daily delivery to Christ, Jesus cannot deliver to the Father and the Father cannot entrust the Holy Spirit. The Christian remains immediately a single grain of wheat. He is not in the communion of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Never might he produce a single fruit of eternal life. The way to deliver ourselves entirely to Christ is the Eucharist and Penance devoutly celebrated. We feed on Christ to live for Christ. We free ourselves from every stain of sin with a firm will to be in the image of Jesus.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, ensure that every Christian is this seed of eternal life.