**APRIL 2020**

***FIRST DECADE OF APRIL***

**You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free**

**WEDNESDAY 1 APRIL (Jn 8,31-42)**

Knowing the truth is transforming our nature, in Christ, for Christ and with Christ, through the uninterrupted work of the Holy Spirit, from nature inherited from Adam, a nature of sin and consequently a slave of it, to a spiritual nature, for an ever growing participation in the divine nature. To live the new nature needs the Body of Christ and his Blood, but also his Word, as the way on which to always walk. Persevering in the knowledge of the truth is not easy. Many return to the bondage of the flesh: “*For freedom Christ set us free; so stand firm and do not submit again to the yoke of slavery. You were running well; who hindered you from following (the) truth? For you were called for freedom, brothers. But do not use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh; rather, serve one another through love. I say, then: live by the Spirit and you will certainly not gratify the desire of the flesh. For the flesh has desires against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; these are opposed to each other, so that you may not do what you want. But if you are guided by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are obvious: immorality, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, rivalry, jealousy, outbursts of fury, acts of selfishness, dissensions, factions, occasions of envy, drinking bouts, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. In contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law”* (Cf. Gal 5,1-26). A moment of inattention is enough, the fall into a temptation and from the spirit one passes into the flesh. Today we have passed from the Gospel to the word of men.

*Jesus then said to those Jews who believed in him, "If you remain in my word, you will truly be my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How can you say, 'You will become free'?" Jesus answered them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave of sin. A slave does not remain in a household forever, but a son always remains. So if a son frees you, then you will truly be free. I know that you are descendants of Abraham. But you are trying to kill me, because my word has no room among you. I tell you what I have seen in the Father's presence; then do what you have heard from the Father." They answered and said to him, "Our father is Abraham." Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing the works of Abraham. But now you are trying to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God; Abraham did not do this. You are doing the works of your father!" (So) they said to him, "We are not illegitimate. We have one Father, God." Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and am here; I did not come on my own, but he sent me.*

Walking in the Word, in full and uninterrupted fidelity, is the only possibility way we have of remaining free in Christ and for him: *“Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deluding yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his own face in a mirror. He sees himself, then goes off and promptly forgets what he looked like. But the one who peers into the perfect law of freedom and perseveres, and is not a hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, such a one shall be blessed in what he does ”* (Jm 1,22-25). Today we want freedom without obedience, without grace, without truth, without any law to respect, without any Gospel to live. We want the freedom of vice and transgression of each Commandment. And as if this were not enough, every transgression of the commandments, every abomination and wickedness, are called the law of freedom and the right of man. If someone only ventures to say in a low voice that this is slavery and not freedom, other than being charged with homophobia, he is also accused of psychological terrorism. This is the gravity of the hour we are experiencing: the powers of evil impose their slavery of sin and death by law. They are the benefactors of humanity. If the Christian preaches the Gospel, he is accused of subversion, lack of charity and being a man scarce in humanity.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, give Christians the frankness to proclaim the Gospel.

**Before Abraham came to be, I AM**

**THURSDAY 2 APRIL (Jn 8,51-59)**

Jesus is not only before Abraham, He is also the God of Abraham. Jesus is the Eternal Word of the Father, his only begotten Son made flesh:  *“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; 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. 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”* (Cf. Jn 1,1-18). I am is the name of God. That is how he revealed himself to Moses at Horeb: *"But," said Moses to God, "when I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' if they ask me, 'What is his name?' what am I to tell them?" God replied, "I am who am." Then he added, "This is what you shall tell the Israelites: I Am sent me to you." God spoke further to Moses, "Thus shall you say to the Israelites: The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. "This is my name forever; this is my title for all generations”* (Ex 3,13-15). As a man, Abraham is before Jesus. As a true God, Jesus is before Abraham. His before is an eternal before. The Word is without beginning and without end.

It is the eternal truth of Jesus that makes the difference with every other man. If the Father and the Son, in the Holy Spirit, are one eternal mystery of love, truth, justice and light, why are Christians today separating this mystery? They do not know that if they separate the Father from the Son and the Son from the Father, no salvation will be possible anymore. It will not be possible because it is the Father the one who saves. The Father saves through Christ Jesus, in the Holy Spirit. If we separate Jesus from the Father, the Father might not save. He lacks his one and only Mediator. The Father gives everything for Christ, he gives everything in Christ, everything is lived and realized with Christ, in his body. Christ is separated from the Father, the Church is also separated from the Father. She is no longer a mediator of salvation, because salvation is a gift that descends from the Father and is given to men through the body of Christ which is the Church. Many disciples of Jesus go a great way far from the hostility of the scribes and Pharisees of Jesus' time. We are sinking into a kingdom of darkness, from which it will be difficult to come out tomorrow. Having destroyed Christ, everything is destroyed.

*Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever keeps my word will never see death." (So) the Jews said to him, "Now we are sure that you are possessed. Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, 'Whoever keeps my word will never taste death.' Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? Or the prophets, who died? Who do you make yourself out to be?" Jesus answered, "If I glorify myself, my glory is worth nothing; but it is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, 'He is our God.' You do not know him, but I know him. And if I should say that I do not know him, I would be like you a liar. But I do know him and I keep his word. Abraham your father rejoiced to see my day; he saw it and was glad. So the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old and you have seen Abraham?" Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, before Abraham came to be, I AM." So they picked up stones to throw at him; but Jesus hid and went out of the temple area.*

Can we abandon our foolishness and ignorance and return to the purity of the truth of Christ Jesus? Today folly and foolishness, error and falseness, heresy and lies about Christ are no longer abandoned, by decree, by law and not even by excommunication. These were means of the past. Today we leave the well of the abyss for personal conviction in the Holy Spirit and for perfect exemplariness in the confession of faith in its evangelical purity. Let whoever wants to get out, invoke the Holy Spirit and get out. Let him take his faith in his hands and carry all his days in it. Today it is the strength of the individual believer that must be the driving force for others to believe. Holy way!

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, obtain for us a strong and invincible conviction in the Spirit.

**The Father is in me and I am in the Father**

**FRIDAY 3 APRIL (Jn 10, 31-42)**

The mystery of Christ Jesus is made up of two truths: the first truth is that of his divinity which is eternal and invisible, the second is that of his humanity, which begins in time and is visible. From the moment of incarnation, the whole invisible mystery manifests itself in the visible mystery, the invisible truth acts through the visible truth. Jesus does not ask scribes and Pharisees to believe in the eternal and invisible mystery, he asks them not to deny the fruits produced by the invisible mystery in the visible mystery. After all, Jesus applies to them the same rule of analogy that Wisdom asks of idolaters: *“For all men were by nature foolish who were in ignorance of God, and who from the good things seen did not succeed in knowing him who is, and from studying the works did not discern the artisan; But either fire, or wind, or the swift air, or the circuit of the stars, or the mighty water, or the luminaries of heaven, the governors of the world, they considered gods. Now if out of joy in their beauty they thought them gods, let them know how far more excellent is the Lord than these; for the original source of beauty fashioned them. Or if they were struck by their might and energy, let them from these things realize how much more powerful is he who made them. For from the greatness and the beauty of created things their original author, by analogy, is seen. But yet, for these the blame is less; For they indeed have gone astray perhaps, though they seek God and wish to find him. For they search busily among his works, but are distracted by what they see, because the things seen are fair. But again, not even these are pardonable. For if they so far succeeded in knowledge that they could speculate about the world, how did they not more quickly find its Lord?”* (Wis 13,1-9). When you do not reach the invisible through the visible, even if not in a perfect way - in a perfect way you can only come through revelation - it is a sign of great foolishness and insipidity. But nature, created in the image and likeness of God does not generate foolishness and ignorance, sin which obscures the mind and makes the heart of stone produces it. When the use of the mind in things that concern God is lost, one must always seek sin and remove it from the heart.

*The Jews again picked up rocks to stone him. Jesus answered them, "I have shown you many good works from my Father. For which of these are you trying to stone me?" The Jews answered him, "We are not stoning you for a good work but for blasphemy. You, a man, are making yourself God." Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your law, 'I said, "You are gods"'? If it calls them gods to whom the word of God came, and scripture cannot be set aside, can you say that the one whom the Father has consecrated and sent into the world blasphemes because I said, 'I am the Son of God'? If I do not perform my Father's works, do not believe me; but if I perform them, even if you do not believe me, believe the works, so that you may realize (and understand) that the Father is in me and I am in the Father." (Then) they tried again to arrest him; but he escaped from their power. He went back across the Jordan to the place where John first baptized, and there he remained. Many came to him and said, "John performed no sign, but everything John said about this man was true." And many there began to believe in him.*

Jesus is divinely wise, beyond all human wisdom. All his eternal wisdom is manifested through the wisdom of the true man, in which he grew every day. He uses the Psalm to remove the accusation of having made himself the Son of God, an accusation that could have caused an immediate stoning - *“I said, “You are gods, And all of you are sons of the Most High.“Nevertheless you will die like men And fall like any one of the princes”* (Ps 82 (81), 6-7). Then he appeals to his works. These, beyond any reasonable doubt, attest to their divine origin. They come from the Father. If they come from God there is a relationship of Jesus with God that goes far beyond that experienced by those who came before him. The same rationality is asked of us today. We have forsaken Christ Jesus. But which fruits have we produced for the better? None. We are regressing in such a great inhumanity, to overcome that of the pagans themselves who never knew Christ the Lord and not even the true God. This inability to understand is the result of sin. Sin always generates foolishness, ignorance and hardness of heart.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, help us to free ourselves from all sin. It is the way of life.

**Was going to die for the nation**

**SATURDAY 4 APRIL (Jn 11,45-56)**

Reasons of nature, reasons of history, reasons of eternal truth, reasons of created truth, reasons of will, reasons of sin, reasons of foolishness, reasons of ignorance and reasons of false and lying convenience are not the same thing. Let us try to reason according to eternal and divine truth, founded on historical truth and in turn founded on revealed truth. When God, the Lord, sends a person to free his people, that is in physical and spiritual slavery, he does not send him so that the people tomorrow falls into an even greater slavery. Instead, he sends him for a permanent, eternal and definitive liberation. However, if one does not believe either in God or in his sent, then reasonings of unbelief are made, which are of foolishness and insipidity. This has always happened with Moses. Moses himself falls into a similar reasoning: *"The Israelite foremen knew they were in a sorry plight, having been told not to reduce the daily amount of bricks. When, therefore, they left Pharaoh and came upon Moses and Aaron, who were waiting to meet them, they said to them, "The Lord look upon you and judge! You have brought us into bad odor with Pharaoh and his servants and have put a sword in their hands to slay us." Moses again had recourse to the Lord and said, "Lord, why do you treat this people so badly? And why did you send me on such a mission? Ever since I went to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has maltreated this people of yours, and you have done nothing to rescue them"* (Ex 5,19-23). The same thing happens after Easter, after the first difficulty: *"Pharaoh was already near when the Israelites looked up and saw that the Egyptians were on the march in pursuit of them. In great fright they cried out to the Lord. And they complained to Moses, "Were there no burial places in Egypt that you had to bring us out here to die in the desert? Why did you do this to us? Why did you bring us out of Egypt? Did we not tell you this in Egypt, when we said, 'Leave us alone. Let us serve the Egyptians'? Far better for us to be the slaves of the Egyptians than to die in the desert." But Moses answered the people, "Fear not! Stand your ground, and you will see the victory the Lord will win for you today. These Egyptians whom you see today you will never see again. The Lord himself will fight for you; you have only to keep still"”* (Ex 14,10-14). Caiaphas speaks from his non faith, not in Jesus, but in the God of the fathers. If Jesus is sent by God, the people will never suffer a single harm for him. He might be put to the test, but soon afterwards he will triumph. If it is not from God, the people will not suffer damage in this case either. God will never allow it. The Lord always guards his people. The enemy of the people is only idolatry.

*Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary and seen what he had done began to believe in him. But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. So the chief priests and the Pharisees convened the Sanhedrin and said, "What are we going to do? This man is performing many signs. If we leave him alone, all will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our land and our nation." But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing, nor do you consider that it is better for you that one man should die instead of the people, so that the whole nation may not perish." He did not say this on his own, but since he was high priest for that year, he prophesied that Jesus was going to die for the nation, and not only for the nation, but also to gather into one the dispersed children of God. So from that day on they planned to kill him. So Jesus no longer walked about in public among the Jews, but he left for the region near the desert, to a town called Ephraim, and there he remained with his disciples. Now the Passover of the Jews was near, and many went up from the country to Jerusalem before Passover to purify themselves. They looked for Jesus and said to one another as they were in the temple area, "What do you think? That he will not come to the feast?"*

The decision to kill Jesus is the most foolish and senseless ever taken by a man. It reveals that it is only the fruit of Caiaphas' non-faith either in God, or in his Word, or in his history, or in Scripture, or even in Jesus sent by the Father. That of Caiaphas is only a decision of will, governed by foolishness, in turn generated by his non faith in the true God and Lord. If Jesus is the light, life, truth, grace, peace and justice of the world, never might he be the cause of the ruin of the people or of one man. The people tomorrow will be ruined for his idolatry, not for his faith.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, make us people with the purest faith in Christ Jesus.

**Truly, this was the Son of God!**

**PALM SUNDAY 5 APRIL (Mt 27,33-54)**

Jesus shone more light while he was on the cross than in all his public life, spent teaching and performing miracles. As the Crucifix, he gives entire fulfillment not only to the words, prophecies, oaths and promises of the Old Testament, but also to every Word of his: *"You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lamp stand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father. "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill”* (Mt 5,13-17). Paul asks of Jesus' disciples this same light: *"We cause no one to stumble in anything, in order that no fault may be found with our ministry; on the contrary, in everything we commend ourselves as ministers of God, through much endurance, in afflictions, hardships, constraints, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, vigils, fasts; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, in a holy spirit, in unfeigned love, in truthful speech, in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness at the right and at the left; through glory and dishonor, insult and praise. We are treated as deceivers and yet are truthful; as unrecognized and yet acknowledged; as dying and behold we live; as chastised and yet not put to death; as sorrowful yet always rejoicing; as poor yet enriching many; as having nothing and yet possessing all things”* (2Cor 6,3-10). The centurion is a figure in the pagan world. As Christ Jesus attracted him to himself through his light of humility, patience, forgiveness, silence, love and prayer, so his disciples will attract every other pagan to Christ through their life all interwoven with evangelical virtues. The way of Christ Jesus must be the way of each of his disciples. Salvation passes through the way of that daily cross that Christians will live out of love and with love.

*As they were going out, they met a Cyrenian named Simon; this man they pressed into service to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of the Skull), they gave Jesus wine to drink mixed with gall. But when he had tasted it, he refused to drink. After they had crucified him, they divided his garments by casting lots; then they sat down and kept watch over him there. And they placed over his head the written charge against him: This is Jesus, the King of the Jews. Those passing by reviled him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself, if you are the Son of God, (and) come down from the cross!" Likewise the chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him and said, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. So he is the king of Israel! Let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusted in God; let him deliver him now if he wants him. For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" The revolutionaries who were crucified with him also kept abusing him in the same way. From noon onward, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Some of the bystanders who heard it said, "This one is calling for Elijah." Immediately one of them ran to get a sponge; he soaked it in wine, and putting it on a reed, gave it to him to drink. But the rest said, "Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to save him." But Jesus cried out again in a loud voice, and gave up his spirit. And behold, the veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth quaked, rocks were split, tombs were opened, and the bodies of many saints who had fallen asleep were raised. And coming forth from their tombs after his resurrection, they entered the holy city and appeared to many. The centurion and the men with him who were keeping watch over Jesus feared greatly when they saw the earthquake and all that was happening, and they said, "Truly, this was the Son of God!"*

Today the Christian has come down from the cross, he does everything to come down from it. He undressed himself of the evangelical virtues: meekness, humility, endurance, patience, poverty in spirit, purity of heart, hunger and thirst for justice and fortitude in painful events. He made himself world beyond the world itself. In doing so, he might no longer write books of theology. Without the evangelical virtues, he will lack the Spirit of Wisdom and Intelligence and his thought might only be worldly beyond the thought of the world. Light attracts. Darkness repels. Jesus, eternal Light in the human light of suffering, has attracted the pagan world in the person of the centurion. Sublime path of faith.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, make us a way of attraction through our evangelical life.

**Anointed the feet of Jesus**

**HOLY MONDAY 6 APRIL (Jn 12,1-11)**

If we read the whole Gospel, we must confess that it is humanly impossible to find the reasons for only one word of Jesus or one of his miracles. Times, moments, places, meetings, dialogues and works; everything is wanted by the Eternal Wisdom of the Holy Spirit in him. We must also add that what Jesus did and taught was the only way to bring true salvation to the earth. He is from the Wisdom of the Spirit, for this reason all his works and words can be understood only from the Wisdom of the Holy Spirit, participated to the disciples of Jesus. Without the participated Wisdom, one remains in the human and never is elevated to the divine. Since today there is a strong detachment from Christ by Christians, there is also a strong separation from the Holy Spirit and his Eternal Wisdom. Since this is no longer participated because of detachment from Christ, the Christian sees everything from his human wisdom which is foolishness and insipidity and kills the Son of God again, sacrificing him on the cross of his immanence, worldliness, sin, hardness of heart and idolatry. That is how Saint Paul teaches: *"Yet we do speak a wisdom to those who are mature, but not a wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age who are passing away. Rather, we speak God's wisdom, mysterious, hidden, which God predetermined before the ages for our glory, and which none of the rulers of this age knew; for if they had known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written: "What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and what has not entered the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love him," this God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit scrutinizes everything, even the depths of God”* (1Cor 2,6-10). Judas is in sin. He speaks from the hardness of his heart, from his foolishness and insipidity. He does not know that the gesture of Mary is the purest motion of the Holy Spirit. The reasons for that anointing are not in the heart of the woman who gives it effect, but in the Spirit of the Lord. The Spirit reveals them through the mouth of Jesus. That ointment must not be sold. It must be kept in view of his burial which is be now imminent. A few days are just left.

*Six days before Passover Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. They gave a dinner for him there, and Martha served, while Lazarus was one of those reclining at table with him. Mary took a liter of costly perfumed oil made from genuine aromatic nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and dried them with her hair; the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. Then Judas the Iscariot, one (of) his disciples, and the one who would betray him, said, "Why was this oil not sold for three hundred days' wages and given to the poor?" He said this not because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief and held the money bag and used to steal the contributions. So Jesus said, "Leave her alone. Let her keep this for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me." (The) large crowd of the Jews found out that he was there and came, not only because of Jesus, but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. And the chief priests plotted to kill Lazarus too, because many of the Jews were turning away and believing in Jesus because of him.*

The motions of the Holy Spirit must be understood from the Holy Spirit. However, the man of sin always thinks according to categories of sin. The poor is not a universal category of thought. There is the poor who lacks material things, but there is also the poor who is devoid of spiritual things. There is the poor man who lacks bread. But there is also the poor person who lacks in God. It is the Holy Spirit who tells us which poor person to serve. Humanity is all in the greatest poverty. It is in all kinds of poverty. Which poor to serve? Which good to offer? In his Eternal Wisdom, the Holy Spirit predisposes everything. But the poor man must also let himself be served by the Father. How? Seeking the kingdom of God and his justice. This too is a motion of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit moves. If the poor person enters the Gospel, his father will always serve him with all abundance. Judah thinks from the world going even beyond the thought of the world. His is a satanic thought, because it is the thought of a thief, who uses the name of the poor for one of his particular profits. The poor in substances is not the only poor in the earth.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints ensure that we always let ourselves be moved by the Holy Spirit.

**What you are going to do, do quickly**

**HOLY TUESDAY 7 APRIL (Jn 13,21-33.36-38)**

Jesus lives in full knowledge of every Word written for him by the Father. In the light, wisdom, intelligence and science of the Holy Spirit he knows it, and in his fortitude he obeys it. He walks in history always attracted by the light of the Spirit of God that shines on him more than the sun on our earth. He is far beyond what wisdom teaches about revelation. He is always in dialogue with the Father in the Holy Spirit: *“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 9,13-18). In the Spirit of the Lord, Jesus knows that his hour has come. He is by now ready for this. He revealed it to the Jews: *"I am troubled now. Yet what should I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it and will glorify it again"”* (Jn 12,27-28). Judah can walk on the path of his sin. He is a part of the sin of the world, but he is not all the sin of the world. However, his is a very sad sin, because it is a sin of treason towards his Master, his Friend, his Lord and his great Benefactor. He had been elected by Jesus to be his apostle, minister of his mysteries and administrator of his eternal riches. There is no greater honor and glory on earth and in the heavens.

*When he had said this, Jesus was deeply troubled and testified, "Amen, amen, I say to you, one of you will betray me." The disciples looked at one another, at a loss as to whom he meant. One of his disciples, the one whom Jesus loved, was reclining at Jesus' side. So Simon Peter nodded to him to find out whom he meant. He leaned back against Jesus' chest and said to him, "Master, who is it?" Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I hand the morsel after I have dipped it." So he dipped the morsel and (took it and) handed it to Judas, son of Simon the Iscariot. After he took the morsel, Satan entered him. So Jesus said to him, "What you are going to do, do quickly." (Now) none of those reclining at table realized why he said this to him. Some thought that since Judas kept the money bag, Jesus had told him, "Buy what we need for the feast," or to give something to the poor. So he took the morsel and left at once. And it was night. When he had left, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. (If God is glorified in him,) God will also glorify him in himself, and he will glorify him at once. My children, I will be with you only a little while longer. You will look for me, and as I told the Jews, 'Where I go you cannot come,' so now I say it to you. Simon Peter said to him, "Master, where are you going?" Jesus answered (him), "Where I am going, you cannot follow me now, though you will follow later." Peter said to him, "Master, why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you." Jesus answered, "Will you lay down your life for me? Amen, amen, I say to you, the cock will not crow before you deny me three times."*

Why does Jesus say to Judas: "What you want to do, do it quickly"? First of all to show him that He does not depend on his betrayal. He knows his time has come and voluntarily goes to meet it. Knowing it, if he wanted, he could also escape. But He did not come to escape, but to embrace the cross and redeem the world with it. Judas must know that he did everything for his thirty miserable coins. Never might his gesture be clothed with nobility. It remains ignoble forever. He is neither necessary nor indispensable for his death. This is beyond his betrayal. Today the world does not think so. First of all it justifies Judas and canonizes him raising him to the honours of the altars, while he is only a traitor. Moreover it wants to make him an instrument in God's hands. He is an instrument, but in the hands of the devil, as scribes, Pharisees, chief priests and elders of the people are instruments of the devil. Satan has misled them and they have let themselves be misled. Judah is part of the sin of the world, but he is not the entire sin.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints arrange that we are never a part of the sin of the world.

**It would be better for that man if he had never been born**

**HOLY WEDNESDAY 8 APRIL (Mt 26,14-25)**

The Psalm reveals that after the Angels of God, there does not exist a creature more beautiful than man in the world: *“O Lord, our Lord, How majestic is Your name in all the earth, Who have displayed Your splendor above the heavens! From the mouth of infants and nursing babes You have established strength Because of Your adversaries, To make the enemy and the revengeful cease.  When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained; What is man that You take thought of him, And the son of man that You care for him? Yet You have made him a little lower than God, And You crown him with glory and majesty! You make him to rule over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet, All sheep and oxen, And also the beasts of the field, The birds of the heavens and the fish of the sea, Whatever passes through the paths of the seas.O Lord, our Lord, How majestic is Your name in all the earth!”* (Ps 8,2-10). If we add to this revelation what comes to us from Sirach, then we will truly understand the wonderful work that God has done: *"The Lord from the earth created man, and in his own image he made him. Limited days of life he gives him and makes him return to earth again. He endows man with a strength of his own, and with power over all things else on earth. He puts the fear of him in all flesh, and gives him rule over beasts and birds. He forms men's tongues and eyes and ears, and imparts to them an understanding heart. With wisdom and knowledge he fills them; good and evil he shows them. He looks with favor upon their hearts, and shows them his glorious works, That they may describe the wonders of his deeds and praise his holy name. He has set before them knowledge, a law of life as their inheritance; An everlasting covenant he has made with them, his commandments he has revealed to them. His majestic glory their eyes beheld, his glorious voice their ears heard. He says to them, "Avoid all evil"; each of them he gives precepts about his fellow men. Their ways are ever known to him, they cannot be hidden from his eyes. Over every nation he places a ruler, but the Lord’s own portion is Israel”* (Sir 17,1-14). Of Judah Jesus he says: *"Better for that man if he had never been born!".* It is a heavy word. It must be understood in its full truth.

*Then one of the Twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?" They paid him thirty pieces of silver, and from that time on he looked for an opportunity to hand him over. On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the disciples approached Jesus and said, "Where do you want us to prepare for you to eat the Passover?" He said, "Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, 'The teacher says, "My appointed time draws near; in your house I shall celebrate the Passover with my disciples."'" The disciples then did as Jesus had ordered, and prepared the Passover. When it was evening, he reclined at table with the Twelve. And while they were eating, he said, "Amen, I say to you, one of you will betray me." Deeply distressed at this, they began to say to him one after another, "Surely it is not I, Lord?" He said in reply, "He who has dipped his hand into the dish with me is the one who will betray me. The Son of Man indeed goes, as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed. It would be better for that man if he had never been born." Then Judas, his betrayer, said in reply, "Surely it is not I, Rabbi?" He answered, "You have said so."*

Can Jesus say of a man: *"Better for him if he had never been born"*? He can say it if this has failed his life, has fallen into the sin against the Holy Spirit, he and has ended up in eternal perdition. If man is the most beautiful visible creature made by the Lord, the birth of Judas brings beauty to all the work of God. However, if Judas is damned for his sin, then, only then is his non-birth preferable. This does not only apply to Judas, but to every other man who fails his earthly existence and ends up in perdition. Only damnation justifies Jesus' phrase. No earthly pain could ever justify it, because every pain is offered to the Father and becomes grace of salvation and redemption. By alerting Judas, Jesus warned every man. The Martyrs and the Confessors of the faith have well understood this warning of Jesus and have sacrificed their life to him, knowing that they would have received it rich of glory in the eternal beatitude. But today, who believes in his damnation anymore? Yet it is real!

Mother of God, Angels and Saints give us a true faith in the mystery of eternal damnation.

**Unless I wash you, you will have no inheritance with me**

**HOLY THURSDAY 9 APRIL (Jn 13,1-15)**

Both with Peter and with the other Apostles, Jesus has always been firm, strong and resolute in affirming his truth, in a certain way we can say that despite having firmly rejected Satan, he rejects Peter's temptation or affirms his truth with much more firmness. With Satan: *"He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry. The tempter approached and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread." He said in reply, "It is written: 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God'"* (Mt 4,2-4). With Peter: *"From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer greatly from the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised. Then Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, "God forbid, Lord! No such thing shall ever happen to you." He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do"”* (Mt 16,21-23). With the Apostles: *"As a result of this, many (of) his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him. Jesus then said to the Twelve, "Do you also want to leave?" Simon Peter answered him, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God." Jesus answered them, "Did I not choose you twelve? Yet is not one of you a devil?" He was referring to Judas, son of Simon the Iscariot; it was he who would betray him, one of the Twelve"”* (Jn 6,66-71). Why is Jesus strong in the same fortitude of God in defending his truth? What are the eternal reasons that want him so strong, without ever compromising? Why is he in a very special way strong with Peter, ready to exclude him from his mission?

*Before the feast of Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to pass from this world to the Father. He loved his own in the world and he loved them to the end. The devil had already induced Judas, son of Simon the Iscariot, to hand him over. So, during supper, fully aware that the Father had put everything into his power and that he had come from God and was returning to God, he rose from supper and took off his outer garments. He took a towel and tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and dry them with the towel around his waist. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Master, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing, you do not understand now, but you will understand later." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "Unless I wash you, you will have no inheritance with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Master, then not only my feet, but my hands and head as well." Jesus said to him, "Whoever has bathed has no need except to have his feet washed, for he is clean all over; so you are clean, but not all." For he knew who would betray him; for this reason, he said, "Not all of you are clean." So when he had washed their feet (and) put his garments back on and reclined at table again, he said to them, "Do you realize what I have done for you? You call me 'teacher' and 'master,' and rightly so, for indeed I am. If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do.*

Let us enter the mind of Satan and we will understand. The Angel of darkness knows that everything is from the truth of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. If he succeeds in freeing Christ, dissolving him from his eternal bond with the eternal truth of the Father and of the Holy Spirit, there is no salvation for humanity. This will always be under his rule of death and hell. He also knows that if he dissolves Peter from his indissoluble bond with the truth of Christ Jesus, the whole Church will fall under his rule. He might reap every soul for eternal damnation. Jesus is strong with Peter. Peter will be strong in the truth of Christ. The whole Church will be strong in the truth of the salvation of Jesus the Lord. If Peter is not strong, he could mislead many others. This is what Paul tells him: *"And when Kephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face because he clearly was wrong. For, until some people came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he began to draw back and separated himself, because he was afraid of the circumcised. And the rest of the Jews (also) acted hypocritically along with him, with the result that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy. But when I saw that they were not on the right road in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Kephas in front of all, "If you, though a Jew, are living like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews?" ”* (Gal 2,11-14).

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, make us strong in the Holy Spirit in the truth of Christ Jesus.

**Woman, behold, your son**

**HOLY FRIDAY 10 APRIL (Jn 19,23,37)**

Jesus says of his Father: *“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 3,16-18). It must be said of Jesus: *"Jesus loved his apostles so much so as to give his Mother as their true Mother"*. But giving the Mother is not enough, it is also necessary to give the Holy Spirit and the grace of the sacraments. The Holy Spirit is given because in the mystical womb of the Mother of Jesus, in the sacrament of Baptism, we are born as true children of Mary to be true children of God in her Son Christ Jesus. Grace is given to grow as true children of Mary and true children of God, abounding with every good fruit for eternal salvation: "*Jesus then, seeing the mother and the disciple whom he loved beside her, said to the mother: "Woman, behold your son!". Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother!" And from that time the disciple welcomed her with him." "But one of the soldiers with a spear hit his side, and immediately blood and water came out."* Jesus left these very great gifts to his Church as a Crucifix and after that he gave the spirit back to his Father. He left them to us so that with them we became his true disciples. Who is the true disciple of Jesus? He who gives to the whole world, making him a disciple of Jesus, these very great gifts made to him by Christ from the cross. If these gifts do not become his own life, his truth, his justice and his grace, the disciple is not a true disciple of Christ the Lord. If these gifts are not given to the whole world, the disciple attests that he is not a true disciple. He does not live as Christ Jesus lived. It doesn't do as Christ Jesus did. He does not give his Mother to men. He does not pour the blood and water of their regeneration, salvation and redemption for them.

*When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four shares, a share for each soldier. They also took his tunic, but the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top down. So they said to one another, "Let's not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it will be," in order that the passage of scripture might be fulfilled (that says): "They divided my garments among them, and for my vesture they cast lots." This is what the soldiers did. Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home. After this, aware that everything was now finished, in order that the scripture might be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I thirst." There was a vessel filled with common wine. So they put a sponge soaked in wine on a sprig of hyssop and put it up to his mouth. When Jesus had taken the wine, he said, "It is finished." And bowing his head, he handed over the spirit. Now since it was preparation day, in order that the bodies might not remain on the cross on the Sabbath, for the Sabbath day of that week was a solemn one, the Jews asked Pilate that their legs be broken and they be taken down. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and then of the other one who was crucified with Jesus. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs, but one soldier thrust his lance into his side, and immediately blood and water flowed out. An eyewitness has testified, and his testimony is true; he knows that he is speaking the truth, so that you also may (come to) believe. For this happened so that the scripture passage might be fulfilled: "Not a bone of it will be broken." And again another passage says: "They will look upon him whom they have pierced."*

The Gospel is an obligation and not a feeling. It is a command and not taste. It is obedience and not instinct. It is a service of true universal salvation, not a lamp that is put under the bushel. The Gospel is a cry of salvation that every man must hear. Who loves man makes him hear the Gospel of his eternal life. Whoever hates him is keeps quiet and is silent. Jesus has the Mother, and gives the Mother. He has the Spirit and gives the Spirit. He has the grace and gives the grace. He has the Word and gives the Word. He has eternal life and gives eternal life. Who has, he gives. Today, if the Christian does not give men either the Gospel, or the Mother, or the Holy Spirit, or Christ Jesus, or the Father, or eternal life, he attests that he is devoid of these divine and eternal gifts. But if he is deprived, it is a sign that he is on the road to perdition.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints fill us with these eternal gifts to give them to every man.

**APRIL 2020**

***SECOND DECADE OF APRIL***

**He is not here, for he has been raised**

**HOLY SATURDAY 11 APRIL (Mt 28,1-10)**

Three times Jesus had announced that He, after his death by crucifixion, would be raised on the third day. But this language was dark, very dark for them: *"Then he took the Twelve aside and said to them, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem and everything written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled. He will be handed over to the Gentiles and he will be mocked and insulted and spat upon; and after they have scourged him they will kill him, but on the third day he will rise." But they understood nothing of this; the word remained hidden from them and they failed to comprehend what he said”* (Lk 18,31-34). The Psalm announces that after his intimate torment, the Suffering Just would have seen the light: *“My God, my God, why have You forsaken me? Far from my deliverance are the words of my groaning.Save me from the lion’s mouth; From the horns of the wild oxen You answer me. I will tell of Your name to my brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will praise You. You who fear the Lord, praise Him; All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him, And stand in awe of Him, all you descendants of Israel. For He has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; Nor has He hidden His face from him; But when he cried to Him for help, He heard. From You comes my praise in the great assembly; I shall pay my vows before those who fear Him. The afflicted will eat and be satisfied; Those who seek Him will praise the Lord. Let your heart live forever! Posterity will serve Him; It will be told of the Lord to the coming generation.They will come and will declare His righteousness To a people who will be born, that He has performed it*” (Cf. Ps 22 (21),1-2.22-26.30-32).

The Song of the Servant of the Lord of Isaiah leaves no doubt about the return to life from death: *“ (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. Therefore I will give him his portion among the great, and he shall divide the spoils with the mighty, Because he surrendered himself to death and was counted among the wicked; And he shall take away the sins of many, and win pardon for their offenses”* (Is 53,10-12). Both the ancient prophecies and Christ Jesus announce a single mystery, which is of death and resurrection. But both the disciples and the women see Jesus in death and the thought of the resurrection does not even touch them. Mary of Magdala and the other Mary go to the sepulchre, to complete the just mentioned burial rite, on the evening of the burial because of the Saturday.

*After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, approached, rolled back the stone, and sat upon it. His appearance was like lightning and his clothing was white as snow. The guards were shaken with fear of him and became like dead men. Then the angel said to the women in reply, "Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him.' Behold, I have told you." Then they went away quickly from the tomb, fearful yet overjoyed, and ran to announce this to his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them on their way and greeted them. They approached, embraced his feet, and did him homage. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."*

The resurrection was not observed in its making. No one saw Jesus while he resurrected. The Angels announce the mystery. It is believed in it by faith. The disciples might see Risen Jesus in Galilee, according to what he foretold. The women believe in mystery and are rewarded. Jesus appears to them and confirms them in the mission. They will have to tell their brothers, that is, the disciples, to go to Galilee. There they will see him. He began the mission from Galilee, fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy. From the Galilee the disciples will have to leave to go all over the world, always according to the prophecy of Isaiah (Is 8,22-9,69). The Apostles are the continuators of the Master's Mission. One Mission, one Missionary: Christ the Lord, in his Person of true God and true man, in his body which is the Church.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, make us perfect continuators of the mission of Christ Jesus.

**They have taken the Lord from the tomb**

**EASTER SUNDAY 12 APRIL (Jn 20,1-9)**

Mary of Magdala does not sleep. We can apply to her what the Song of Songs says about the bride. The spiritual, mystical meaning is very high: *“I have come to my garden, my sister, my bride; I gather my myrrh and my spices, I eat my honey and my sweetmeats, I drink my wine and my milk. Eat, friends; drink! Drink freely of love! I was sleeping, but my heart kept vigil; I heard my lover knocking: "Open to me, my sister, my beloved, my dove, my perfect one! For my head is wet with dew, my locks with the moisture of the night." I have taken off my robe, am I then to put it on? I have bathed my feet, am I then to soil them? My lover put his hand through the opening; my heart trembled within me, and I grew faint when he spoke. I rose to open to my lover, with my hands dripping myrrh: With my fingers dripping choice myrrh upon the fittings of the lock. I opened to my lover - but my lover had departed, gone. I sought him but I did not find him; I called to him but he did not answer me. The watchmen came upon me as they made their rounds of the city; They struck me, and wounded me, and took my mantle from me, the guardians of the walls. I adjure you, daughters of Jerusalem, if you find my lover - What shall you tell him?- that I am faint with love”.*

*How does your lover differ from any other, O most beautiful among women? How does your lover differ from any other, that you adjure us so? My lover is radiant and ruddy; he stands out among thousands. His head is pure gold; his locks are palm fronds, black as the raven. His eyes are like doves beside running waters, His teeth would seem bathed in milk, and are set like jewels. His cheeks are like beds of spice with ripening aromatic herbs. His lips are red blossoms; they drip choice myrrh. His arms are rods of gold adorned with chrysolites. His body is a work of ivory covered with sapphires. His legs are columns of marble resting on golden bases. His stature is like the trees on Lebanon, imposing as the cedars. His mouth is sweetness itself; he is all delight. Such is my lover, and such my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem”* (Song 5,1-16). Mary of Magdala does not find Jesus in the grave. It is empty. She thinks of a stealing. She goes to Simon Peter and John to ask for help in her search. The two disciples are not interested in Mary. They run to the sepulcher. It is empty, but in great order. We don't know the heart of Peter. We don't know what his mind and heart thought. Instead, John's faith is revealed. He has seen and believed. Afterwards, they leave, once again disinterested in Mary of Magdala. She had asked for help, but in vain.

*On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him." So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first; he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in. When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed. For they did not yet understand the scripture that he had to rise from the dead.*

For the Apostle John, the resurrection is a true theological event, as the whole mystery of Christ is a theological event. Christ Jesus lives his mystery of death and resurrection as written for him on the scroll of the Book. Being Jesus a true theological event, from Christ we must necessarily pass to the Father. Christ Jesus is the mystery of salvation for every man. Redemption is not a fact of Christ, it is the true work of God for the whole world. Being a fact of God for the world, those who believe in the true God are obliged to respect the will of God written in Christ Jesus for every man. Whoever loves man cannot fail to announce to him the salvation that is in the Only Son of God. Christ is not an ecclesial fact. Every member of the Church must give Christ.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, free us from all falsehood and lies about Christ Jesus.

**They gave a large sum of money to the soldiers**

**MONDAY 13 APRIL (Mt 28,8-15)**

The wicked condemns himself with his own decisions. He is overwhelmed by his malice and perversity. It is the light that comes from the Psalm: *“Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord.Who is the man who desires life And loves length of days that he may see good? Keep your tongue from evil And your lips from speaking deceit. Depart from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it.The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous And His ears are open to their cry.The face of the Lord is against evildoers, To cut off the memory of them from the earth.The righteous cry, and the Lord hears And delivers them out of all their troubles.The Lord is near to the brokenhearted And saves those who are crushed in spirit.Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the Lord delivers him out of them all. He keeps all his bones, Not one of them is broken. Evil shall slay the wicked, And those who hate the righteous will be condemned.The Lord redeems the soul of His servants, And none of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned”* (Ps 34 (33), 12-23). Let us remember what had happened: *“The next day, the one following the day of preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, "Sir, we remember that this impostor while still alive said, 'After three days I will be raised up.' Give orders, then, that the grave be secured until the third day, lest his disciples come and steal him and say to the people, 'He has been raised from the dead.' This last imposture would be worse than the first." Pilate said to them, "The guard is yours; go secure it as best you can." So they went and secured the tomb by fixing a seal to the stone and setting the guard”* (Mt 17,62-66). Their malice will condemn them forever. What they have asked for and obtained has repercussions against them on the day of judgment. The guards are their guarantee.

What happens now? It is precisely the guards who come and attest that Jesus has truly risen. They are not the disciples. They are not women. They are their guards, the ones they placed as seal that Jesus would have remained in the grave forever. But their stony heart goes even further. They want to destroy Christ even now that he is indestructible because he no longer falls under their sin of malice and perversity. They buy their silence with money. First they bought Judas' betrayal to kill him. Now they buy the silence of the guards to deny the truth of his resurrection, which is the seal of the Father, God, on the whole Person and the mission of Jesus the Lord. They are ready to buy even the silence of Pilate, should he take some punitive action against them. But now they are inexcusable. Christ is truly risen. The whole Word of God is fulfilled in Him. He is the true Christ, the true Messiah, the true Sent by the Father. Yet the Lord had given them this great grace: the announcement of the resurrection by impartial people.

*Then they went away quickly from the tomb, fearful yet overjoyed, and ran to announce this to his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them on their way and greeted them. They approached, embraced his feet, and did him homage. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me." While they were going, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had happened. They assembled with the elders and took counsel; then they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came by night and stole him while we were asleep.' And if this gets to the ears of the governor, we will satisfy (him) and keep you out of trouble." The soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has circulated among the Jews to the present (day).*

Every man must pay close attention to his every word, every thought of his and every work. Tomorrow, tt will be precisely these things that will accuse him to the heavenly Father on the day of judgment. You put the guards as your guarantee. They told you that Jesus really rose. You didn't believe. You bought their silence. If the guards had not been placed before the tomb, you would have some excuse. You didn't know. You didn't trust the disciples. The guards were yours, they were not some disciples. Why didn't you believe? He is wise who measures, weighs and calculates the good of each of his actions.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints arrange that Christians act with great wisdom.

**Woman, why are you weeping?**

**TUESDAY 14 APRIL (Jn 20,11-18)**

Mary of Magdala is in great pain. At this moment she is the true figure of Jerusalem deprived of its splendor in the days of its desolation. Lord Jesus was the splendour of Mary of Màgdala’s soul. She lost him. There is no greater pain: *"Look O Lord, and see how worthless I have become! "Come, all you who pass by the way, look and see Whether there is any suffering like my suffering, which has been dealt me When the Lord afflicted me on the day of his blazing wrath. "From on high he sent fire down into my very frame; He spread a net for my feet, and overthrew me. He left me desolate, in pain all the day. "He has kept watch over my sins; by his hand they have been plaited: They have settled about my neck, he has brought my strength to its knees; The Lord has delivered me into their grip, I am unable to rise. "All the mighty ones in my midst the Lord has cast away; He summoned an army against me to crush my young men; The Lord has trodden in the wine press virgin daughter Judah. "At this I weep, my eyes run with tears: Far from me are all who could console me, any who might revive me; My sons were reduced to silence when the enemy prevailed." Zion stretched out her hands, but there was no one to console her; The Lord gave orders against Jacob for his neighbors to be his foes; Jerusalem has become in their midst a thing unclean. "The Lord is just; I had defied his command. Listen, all you peoples, and behold my suffering:*

*“My maidens and my youths have gone into captivity. "I cried out to my lovers, but they failed me. My priests and my elders perished in the city; Where they sought food for themselves, they found it not. "Look, O Lord, upon my distress: all within me is in ferment, My heart recoils within me from my monstrous rebellion. In the streets the sword bereaves, at home death stalks. "Give heed to my groaning; there is no one to console me. All my enemies rejoice at my misfortune: it is you who have wrought it. Bring on the day you have proclaimed, that they may be even as I. "Let all their evil come before you; deal with them As you have dealt with me for all my sins; My groans are many, and I am sick at heart"”* (Lam 1,11-22). Jerusalem loses its glory and weeps bitterly. Mary of Magdala loses her glory, the glory of her soul and weeps inconsolable tears. The Church today is losing her glory, Christ the Lord, and it seems to be in the days preceding the universal flood or the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. Everyone is intent on his own business, his petty trafficking, his occupations of sin, falsehood, lies and deception. But nobody cares about the ruin of the Church, that is deprived of her glory.

*But Mary stayed outside the tomb weeping. And as she wept, she bent over into the tomb and saw two angels in white sitting there, one at the head and one at the feet where the body of Jesus had been. And they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken my Lord, and I don't know where they laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus there, but did not know it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" She thought it was the gardener and said to him, "Sir, if you carried him away, tell me where you laid him, and I will take him." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni," which means Teacher. Jesus said to her, "Stop holding on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and tell them, 'I am going to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary of Magdala went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and what he told her.*

If we wept tears of repentance, repentance and conversion, Jesus would also come to us to bring us his consolation, to give himself back to us as our glory and our splendor. He would also send us on mission, not to the pagans, but to his Church to announce to her that He is the Risen One, the Eternal Living One, that He is her only glory, her only honour and her only boast. It is useless to seek an alliance with Egypt, this broken reed that pierces the hand of the one leaning on it. That of Mary is a cry of innocence for the loss of her glory. Ours must be a cry of penitence for letting our glory be torn from us.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints arrange that every Christian looks for his glory and his boast.

**He opened their minds to understand the scriptures**

**THURSDAY 16 APRIL (Lk 24,35-48)**

Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ. Christ is the *"real fruit and the true fruit"* of Scripture. Christ's ignorance is ignorance of Scriptures. All Scriptures are fulfilled in Christ. Without Christ Jesus, Scripture is a dry trunk. Branches, leaves, fruits are missing to it. Who must give knowledge of Scriptures is always the Holy Spirit. Who must ask for the grace of the knowledge of Scriptures is every disciple of Jesus. Once obtained and while obtaining the knowledge of Scriptures he must help his brothers so that they too can enter his very knowledge. Here is how the pious man prays for knowledge of the Law or the Word of the Lord: *“Deal bountifully with Your servant, That I may live and keep Your word.Open my eyes, that I may behold Wonderful things from Your law.I am a stranger in the earth;* *Do not hide Your commandments from me.My soul is crushed with longing* *After Your ordinances at all times.You rebuke the arrogant, the cursed, Who wander from Your commandments.Take away reproach and contempt from me, For I observe Your testimonies.Even though princes sit and talk against me, Your servant meditates on Your statutes.*

*Your testimonies also are my delight; They are my counselors. My soul cleaves to the dust; Revive me according to Your word.I have told of my ways, and You have answered me; Teach me Your statutes.Make me understand the way of Your precepts, So I will meditate on Your wonders.My soul weeps because of grief; Strengthen me according to Your word.Remove the false way from me, And graciously grant me Your law.I have chosen the faithful way; I have placed Your ordinances before me.I cling to Your testimonies; O Lord, do not put me to shame!I shall run the way of Your commandments, For You will enlarge my heart.Teach me, O Lord, the way of Your statutes, And I shall observe it to the end.Give me understanding, that I may observe Your law And keep it with all my heart.Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, For I delight in it.Incline my heart to Your testimonies And not to dishonest gain.Turn away my eyes from looking at vanity, And revive me in Your ways.Establish Your word to Your servant, As that which produces reverence for You.Turn away my reproach which I dread, For Your ordinances are good.Behold, I long for Your precepts; Revive me through Your righteousness”* (Ps 119 (118), 17-40). Today the Christian not only he does not pray to have the knowledge of Scriptures, he has also come to despise them, reducing them to lies, falsehoods, deception for himself and for others. The thought of the world has conquered his heart.

*Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread. While they were still speaking about this, he stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." But they were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. Then he said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do questions arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you can see I have." And as he said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While they were still incredulous for joy and were amazed, he asked them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of baked fish; he took it and ate it in front of them. He said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and in the prophets and psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures. And he said to them, "Thus it is written that the Messiah would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.*

What Jesus works in the Upper Room, the Christian, and especially the Apostle and the minister of the Word, must do it in the Church of God today. A Church strong in the knowledge of the Law of the Lord, of his Word, is a Church that does not fear no drought of heresies or storm of errors. She is like a tree planted along water courses. It will always produce the fruits in time. Indeed, if she remains planted on the river of the Holy Spirit that flows from the side of Christ, she will produce a fruit for each month. If she lacks the comfort of Scriptures, she will be like the disciples closed in the Upper Room.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints ensure that the Church is always planted in Scriptures.

**Cast the net over the right side of the boat and you will find**

**FRIDAY 17 APRIL (Jn 21,1-14)**

In the Gospel according to Johm Jesus says: *“I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd. This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have power to lay it down, and power to take it up again. This command I have received from my Father." My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish. No one can take them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one can take them out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one" ”* (Jn 10,14-18.27-30). Souls are all of God. Every man is of God. The Lord, the Creator of man, wants to give the work of his hands to Christ Jesus, his only Good Shepherd. The Father does not know anyone else as his Good Shepherd. Jesus receives the sheep and keeps them, feeding them with his own life, giving them his Word, which is the Word of the Father.

Before returning to the Father, Jesus confesses in prayer that he lived his mission as a Good Shepherd well. He kept the sheep that the Father entrusted to him: *“When I was with them I protected them in your name that you gave me, and I guarded them, and none of them was lost except the son of destruction, in order that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you. I speak this in the world so that they may share my joy completely. I gave them your word, and the world hated them, because they do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world”* (Jn 17,12-14). Now the time has come to establish Peter as Pastor of all his flock: Totius Ecclesiae Pastor. But first he must give him the last teaching. If he, if the others with him and under his guidance in truth and charity, want to catch fish in the net of the Church, they will always have to throw the net on the right side. Why on the right side? Because He also threw the net on his right side. The river of grace and the Holy Spirit, the river of life, flows from the right side of the temple. The Word of the Gospel not accompanied by this river does not produce fruit.

*After this, Jesus revealed himself again to his disciples at the Sea of Tiberias. He revealed himself in this way. Together were Simon Peter, Thomas called Didymus, Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, Zebedee's sons, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We also will come with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. When it was already dawn, Jesus was standing on the shore; but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, have you caught anything to eat?" They answered him, "No." So he said to them, "Cast the net over the right side of the boat and you will find something." So they cast it, and were not able to pull it in because of the number of fish. So the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord." When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he tucked in his garment, for he was lightly clad, and jumped into the sea. The other disciples came in the boat, for they were not far from shore, only about a hundred yards, dragging the net with the fish. When they climbed out on shore, they saw a charcoal fire with fish on it and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you just caught." So Simon Peter went over and dragged the net ashore full of one hundred fifty-three large fish. Even though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come, have breakfast." And none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they realized it was the Lord. Jesus came over and took the bread and gave it to them, and in like manner the fish. This was now the third time Jesus was revealed to his disciples after being raised from the dead.*

On the right side of the temple flows the river that gives life to the whole earth and also to the Dead Sea. On the right side of Christ Jesus the river of grace and of the Holy Spirit gushed forth, which must give life to all of his Word. From the heart of Peter and the Apostles the river of grace and of the Holy Spirit of Christ must flow. If Peter and the Apostles sow the Word, without this river of grace and of the Holy Spirit, they will spend the whole night of time without ever taking men for the kingdom of God.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints ensure that every Christian is this river in the Church.

**They did not believe them either**

**SATURDAY 18 APRIL (Mk 16,9-15)**

The right thing to ask is: why does the Evangelist Mark, who collects Peter's preaching, present the Apostles as people who do not believe in the announcement that is made to them by those who have seen the risen Jesus? Why is the narration of their non-faith the essence of his stories about the resurrection of Jesus? The first answer is given to us by the prophet Isaiah. The mystery of Christ which is of death and resurrection is infinitely beyond any created mind. A clay mind does not understand the wonders wrought by the Lord: *“See, my servant shall prosper, he shall be raised high and greatly exalted. Even as many were amazed at him -  so marred was his look beyond that of man, and his appearance beyond that of mortals - So shall he startle many nations, because of him kings shall stand speechless; For those who have not been told shall see, those who have not heard shall ponder it. Who would believe what we have heard? To whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?”* (Is 52,13-53,1). The mystery is understood through the gift of the wisdom and light of the Holy Spirit. According to his nature, man perceives the things of God.

We can draw a second answer in the Book of Job. If we can't even understand the wonders of creation, can we grasp the mystery of the Lord Jesus with our minds? It becomes truly impossible: *“Hearken to this, O Job! Stand and consider the wondrous works of God! Do you know how God lays his commands upon them, and makes the light shine forth from his clouds? Do you know how the clouds are banked, the wondrous work of him who is perfect in knowledge? You, whom the streams of water fail when a calm from the south comes over the land, Do you spread out with him the firmament of the skies, hard as a brazen mirror? Teach us then what we shall say to him; we cannot, for the darkness, make our plea. Will he be told about it when I speak, or when a man says he is being destroyed? Nay, rather, it is as the light which men see not while it is obscured among the clouds, till the wind comes by and sweeps the clouds away. From the North the splendor comes, surrounding God's awesome majesty! The Almighty! we cannot discover him, pre-eminent in power and judgment; his great justice owes no one an accounting. Therefore men revere him, though none can see him, however wise their hearts”* (Job 37,14-24). The light of the Holy Spirit is always necessary.

A third answer comes from the Gospel according to Luke. The Apostles see the risen Jesus, they are in joy, but they are still not able to believe: *“While they were still incredulous for joy and were amazed, he asked them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of baked fish; he took it and ate it in front of them. He said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and in the prophets and psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures* (Lk 24,41-45). Mark wants to teach every man that the mystery of Christ is beyond their mind, their heart, their foolish and senseless philosophies, sciences and anthropologies. In the mystery we believe through the gift of the Holy Spirit. He wraps us with his light and we believe.

*When he had risen, early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had driven seven demons. She went and told his companions who were mourning and weeping. When they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they did not believe. After this he appeared in another form to two of them walking along on their way to the country. They returned and told the others; but they did not believe them either. (But) later, as the eleven were at table, he appeared to them and rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart because they had not believed those who saw him after he had been raised. He said to them, "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature.*

If the Apostle of Christ Jesus, the minister of the Word, every one of his disciples, want us to believe in the mystery of Christ the Lord, that is of death and resurrection, they must be full of grace and of the Holy Spirit, of all heavenly wisdom and intelligence and also of the Spirit of conviction and conversion. It is the Spirit that opens the mind to knowledge.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, make every disciple full of grace and of the Holy Spirit.

**As the Father has sent me**

**SUNDAY 19 APRIL (Jn 20,19-31)**

Let us listen to some truths Jesus pronounces on himself in the Gospel according to John. We will understand the truth of the apostolic mission: *“No one has ever seen God. The only Son, God, who is at the Father's side, has revealed him”* (Jn 1,18). Christ Jesus dwell in the womb of the Father. The Apostle also must live in the womb of Christ. *“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”* (Jn 3,16). Christ Jesus is the gift of the Father. The Apostle is the gift of Christ for the salvation and redemption of the world. If he is a gift, he must let himself be given for the life of his brothers at every moment. *“For the one whom God sent speaks the words of God. He does not ration his gift of the Spirit. The Father loves the Son and has given everything over to him. Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever disobeys the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God remains upon him”* (Jn 3,34-36). Christ Jesus give the Spirit without measure. The Apostle also must give the Spirit without measure. This is why he must devote himself to the ministry of the Word and to prayer.

Jesus is the Father’s disciple. The Apostle must be the disciple of Christ. Every day, he must learn from Jesus the things he must do, but also those he must not do: *“Jesus answered and said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, a son cannot do anything on his own, but only what he sees his father doing; for what he does, his son will do also. For the Father loves his Son and shows him everything that he himself does, and he will show him greater works than these, so that you may be amazed”* (Jn 5,19-20). The Father places his seal of truth and eternal life on Jesus. Jesus also must always put his seal on the Apostle. He must attest that the Word of the Apostle is his Word. *“Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him the Father, God, has set his seal"* (Jn 6,27). Jesus talks listening to the Father. The Apostle also must talk listening to Christ Jesus: *“I have much to say about you in condemnation. But the one who sent me is true, and what I heard from him I tell the world”* (Jn 8,26). Jesus and the Father are one. The Apostle and Jesus must also be one: *"My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish. No one can take them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one can take them out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one" ”* (Jn 10,27-30). The Father’s mystery is in the heart of Jesus. The mystery of Jesus must be in the heart of the Apostle. There is no mission so high and divine on earth.

*On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. (Jesus) said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nail marks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of (his) disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may (come to) believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name.*

When the Apostle looks away from Christ Jesus, the earth attracts him, the world seduces him and men conquer him. His mission is no longer of salvation. He has detached himself from the source of his truth. It is urgent to return to the bosom of Christ and remain there.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, give to the Church Apostles according to the heart of Christ Jesus.

**Without being born of water and Spirit**

**MONDAY 20 APRIL (Jn 3,1-8)**

Jesus' words are clear, unequivocal and unchangeable. They say necessity without exception. They apply to every child of Adam, no one excluded: *“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.”* To this need Jesus also adds the command to his Apostles. That’s how it is in the gospel according to Matthew: *“Then Jesus approached and said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you"* *(Mt 28,16-20).* In Mark the command is still more explicit: *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”* (Mk 16,15-16). If the Apostles do not preach Christ in his mystery of death and resurrection and do not baptize in his name, they are omissive of a commandment given to them by the Lord. They are responsible for all those who are lost for their lack of obedience. This very grave eternal responsibility is also for every other minister of the Word.

The Apostle Peter understood this need and this command well. Not only does he baptize those who believed in his Word on Christ Jesus, but also Cornelius and those of his house after the Holy Spirit descended on them: *“Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and they asked Peter and the other apostles, "What are we to do, my brothers?" Peter (said) to them, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the holy Spirit. For the promise is made to you and to your children and to all those far off, whomever the Lord our God will call." He testified with many other arguments, and was exhorting them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand persons were added that day”* (At 2,37-41). *"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”* (At 10,44-48). This is the Word of Jesus and his Command. A need for every man to let himself be baptized. A command for each Apostle to preach the Gospel and to baptize those who believe. It is also the duty of the Apostle to ensure that this will of Christ Jesus is proclaimed according to the purest truth and lived with perfect obedience on the part of all.

*Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. He came to Jesus at night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you are doing unless God is with him." 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."*

If the preaching of the Gospel, making disciples and baptizing are the essence of the apostolic mission, if these things are also a command and not just an exhortation, might there be in the Church of God one man who can deny this command and this need? If he did it, he would certainly no longer be an Apostle of Christ the Lord. He would not be his minister of the Word. He would not even be a Christian. He is an Apostle, a minister and a Christian who lives with the thought of Christ. Since in the non-defense of baptism and in the declaration of its uselessness, there is a denial of the thought of Christ, whoever said these things would be excluded from the following of Jesus and also from being his Apostle and his minister. True faith implies consequences that are eternal.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, give every Christian a true faith in the command of Jesus.

**APRILE 2020**

***THIRD DECADE OF APRIL***

**So that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life**

**TUESDAY 21 APRIL (Jn 3,7-15)**

Jesus says: "As Moses raised the serpent in the desert, so the Son of man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life." In every similitude and also in every figure, some things are similar and many also dissimilar. What is similar and dissimilar between the figure of the snake and the reality that is Christ Jesus? We read in the Book of Numbers: *“From Mount Hor they set out on the Red Sea road, to by-pass the land of Edom. But with their patience worn out by the journey, the people complained against God and Moses, "Why have you brought us up from Egypt to die in this desert, where there is no food or water? We are disgusted with this wretched food!" In punishment the Lord sent among the people seraph serpents, which bit the people so that many of them died. Then the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned in complaining against the Lord and you. Pray the Lord to take the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people, and the Lord said to Moses, "Make a seraph and mount it on a pole, and if anyone who has been bitten looks at it, he will recover." Moses accordingly made a bronze serpent and mounted it on a pole, and whenever anyone who had been bitten by a serpent looked at the bronze serpent, he recovered”* (Num 21,4-9). The sin of murmuring against God and Moses, the lethal bite of snakes, the remedy that the Lord gives and the look of faith to be healed and not to die are similar.

First of all, what is dissimilar is sin, which is disobedience to every command of the Lord, and which is consumed in the universal idolatry and immorality. There is Christ Jesus who must be raised on the cross and die on it. There is the conversion and abandonment of all disobedience, idolatry and immorality to be healed. There is the look of faith that is fulfilled for the preaching of the Gospel of life and becoming, through baptism, the body of Christ to live with Christ, in Christ and for Christ always animated and moved by the Holy Spirit. Not only must one look at Christ, but he must become one: one life and one mission, with Christ. And more. The flesh of Christ must be eaten to live for him. His blood must be drunk as a true antidote so as never to sin ever again. Whoever becomes one with him believes in Christ, in the same way that he and the Father are one. The mystery is great.

*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." Nicodemus answered and said to him, "How can this happen?" Jesus answered and said to him, "You are the teacher of Israel and you do not understand this? Amen, amen, I say to you, we speak of what we know and we testify to what we have seen, but you people do not accept our testimony. If I tell you about earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? 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."*

If life is in faith in Christ, if who does not believe remains in death, why do today many disciples of Jesus affirm that faith in Christ is not necessary to have salvation and that all without Christ are saved? Can we deceive the whole world, leaving it in death forever, because of our idleness and missionary sloth and foolishness and ignorance in understanding the Word of Jesus? You cannot read the Gospel from the ambo and then affirm the opposite from the teaching posts and from any other place where Christian doctrine is taught. The Apostle, the minister of the Word, was not sent into the world by Christ Jesus to say, announce and teach his thoughts, but only the thought of Christ Jesus. But not an imagined thought, but the Word of the Gospel, according to the truth placed in it by the Holy Spirit and to which He always leads. It is fair to say that today there is a strong, indeed an abysmal separation between the thought of Christ Jesus revealed and kept in the Gospel and what the vast majority of his disciples think. It is as if the mind were protected by a bronze wall, which hinders any transfer into it of the light and truth of the Holy Spirit.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints arrange that our thought is the thought of Christ Jesus.

**God so loved the world**

**WEDNESDAY 22 APRIL (Jn 3,16-21)**

How big is God's love for man? It is infinite, eternal, without limits, without measure. God's love is Christ Jesus: *“Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us. For Christ, while we were still helpless, yet died at the appointed time for the ungodly. Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. How much more then, since we are now justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath. Indeed, if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more, once reconciled, will we be saved by his life. Not only that, but we also boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation”* (Rm 5,5-11). That of God in Christ Jesus, is a love which is up to death and death by the cross. God dies out of love.

For our love, Christ Jesus let himself be made sin by God in our favour. The innocent takes upon himself all the sins of the world and expiates them in his body consumed by the fire of his love on the cross: *“For the love of Christ impels us, once we have come to the conviction that one died for all; therefore, all have died. He indeed died for all, so that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. Consequently, from now on we regard no one according to the flesh; even if we once knew Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know him so no longer. So whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come. And all this is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and given us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting their trespasses against them and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. So we are ambassadors for Christ, as if God were appealing through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who did not know sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him”* (2Cor 5,14-21). The love of God for man in Christ Jesus is great, divine, human, eternal and perfect. But is such a sublime gift enough for the salvation of man? No. It is necessary that man makes it his own with faith. If man does not believe in the Only Begotten Son of God, he remains in his sin and it is eternal death for him. It is not non faith that condemns him. He is already in death. Non faith does not allow him to pass into 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. And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.*

But what does it mean to believe in the Only-begotten Son of God? Faith is in the Word and in all that it says one must or must not do. The Word of Jesus, his Gospel is preached, one believes in its truth, he welcomes it as the one and only Word of eternal life, he lets himself be baptized, and becomes with Christ one life, one body; he lives as a true child of the Father, obeys his will, and enters into salvation. Eternal life is a gift. It must be accepted. To those who accept it, the obligation to produce every good fruit according to the Word of Christ. Christ is welcomed to live in Christ, with Christ and for Christ. If we do not live for Christ, the gift is accepted in vain. But we are accountable to God for this vain acceptance. We did not make the life of Christ Jesus bear fruit in our lives. We have not been saved. We have not produced salvation.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, make us life of Christ's life and light of his light.

**He does not ration his gift of the Spirit**

**THURSDAY 23 APRIL (Jn 3,31-36)**

The heavenly Father works everything through Christ and his Holy Spirit. Today, he wants to work the whole mystery of salvation with the body of Christ, moved and guided by his Holy Spirit. God works nothing without Christ and the Holy Spirit. Even man can do nothing for his salvation and the salvation of his brothers without Christ and the Holy Spirit. The "service" given by the Holy Spirit to the Father in creation must be given today to the body of Christ for redemption and salvation: *“Wisdom sings her own praises, before her own people she proclaims her glory; In the assembly of the Most High she opens her mouth, in the presence of his hosts she declares her worth: "From the mouth of the Most High I came forth, and mist like covered the earth. In the highest heavens did I dwell, my throne on a pillar of cloud. The vault of heaven I compassed alone, through the deep abyss I wandered. Over waves of the sea, over all the land, over every people and nation I held sway. Among all these I sought a resting place; in whose inheritance should I abide? "Then the Creator of all gave me his command, and he who formed me chose the spot for my tent, Saying, 'In Jacob make your dwelling, in Israel your inheritance.' Before all ages, in the beginning, he created me, and through all ages I shall not cease to be. In the holy tent I ministered before him, and in Zion I fixed my abode. Thus in the chosen city he has given me rest, in Jerusalem is my domain. I have struck root among the glorious people, in the portion of the Lord, his heritage”.* Today, the resting place of the Holy Spirit is Christ Jesus. It is his body. We can compare the Holy Spirit to the dove that comes out of the ark and finds no resting place. It returns to the ark, because its home is there. Today, the Holy Spirit operates from the body of Christ. This is his home. He also works with those who are not yet the body of Christ, but to make them become the body of Christ.

We find the beauty sung by Wisdom in Christ Jesus. No one has been as morally, spiritually, divinely and humanly beautiful in words and deeds as Jesus the Lord: *"Like a cedar on Lebanon I am raised aloft, like a cypress on Mount Hermon, Like a palm tree in En-gedi, like a rosebush in Jericho, Like a fair olive tree in the field, like a plane tree growing beside the water. Like cinnamon, or fragrant balm, or precious myrrh, I give forth perfume; Like galbanum and onycha and sweet spices, like the odor of incense in the holy place. I spread out my branches like a terebinth, my branches so bright and so graceful. I bud forth delights like the vine, my blossoms become fruit fair and rich. Come to me, all you that yearn for me, and be filled with my fruits; You will remember me as sweeter than honey, better to have than the honeycomb. He who eats of me will hunger still, he who drinks of me will thirst for more; He who obeys me will not be put to shame, he who serves me will never fail"”* (Sir 24,1-22). This same beauty and finesse in words, in facts and in traits, must be of the whole body of Christ. There must never be a contrast or dissimilarity between the beauty of Christ and the Christian.

*The one who comes from above is above all. The one who is of the earth is earthly and speaks of earthly things. But the one who comes from heaven (is above all). He testifies to what he has seen and heard, but no one accepts his testimony. Whoever does accept his testimony certifies that God is trustworthy. For the one whom God sent speaks the words of God. He does not ration his gift of the Spirit. The Father loves the Son and has given everything over to him. Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever disobeys the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God remains upon him.*

The Holy Spirit gushes out without measure perpetually from the body of Christ. He acts without measure in the body of Christ and with the body of Christ, but always to form the body of Christ. If the body of Christ is not formed, our work is in vain. We can also make a new world, but it is not the fruit of the Holy Spirit in us. The only fruit that the Spirit wants to produce is the formation of the body of Christ. From the body of Christ for the body of Christ. Forming the Church is the essence of the work of the Holy Spirit.

Mother of God, Angels, Saints ensure that we live in the Spirit to always form Christ.

**He withdrew again to the mountain alone**

**FRIDAY 24 APRIL (Jn 6,1-15)**

Every man can be from Satan, from his hatred and every other vice and from others. The first woman wanted to be from Satan and disobeyed her Lord. She brought death by tempting and causing man to fall on our earth: *“I Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the animals that the Lord God had made. The serpent asked the woman, "Did God really tell you not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?" The woman answered the serpent: "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; it is only about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden that God said, 'You shall not eat it or even touch it, lest you die.'" But the serpent said to the woman: "You certainly will not die! No, God knows well that the moment you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods who know what is good and what is bad." The woman saw that the tree was good for food, pleasing to the eyes, and desirable for gaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized that they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves”* (Gen 3,1-7). When you are not from God, death is always produced and begotten on earth. Life is from obedience to the Lord.

Caiaphas and the Sanhedrin wanted to be out of their hatred and envy against Jesus. They generated and produced the death sentence against the Only Begotten Son of the Father: *“The high priest said to him, "I order you to tell us under oath before the living God whether you are the Messiah, the Son of God." Jesus said to him in reply, "You have said so. But I tell you: From now on you will see 'the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power' and 'coming on the clouds of heaven.'" Then the high priest tore his robes and said, "He has blasphemed! What further need have we of witnesses? You have now heard the blasphemy; what is your opinion?" They said in reply, "He deserves to die!"* (Mt 26,62-66). It is the most foolish and absurd sentence passed in history. It is not the fruit of truth, but of falsehood, in turn the fruit of envy and hatred. Pilate also let himself be made by others and handed Jesus over to be crucified: *“Again Pilate addressed them, still wishing to release Jesus, but they continued their shouting, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Pilate addressed them a third time, "What evil has this man done? I found him guilty of no capital crime. Therefore I shall have him flogged and then release him." With loud shouts, however, they persisted in calling for his crucifixion, and their voices prevailed. The verdict of Pilate was that their demand should be granted. So he released the man who had been imprisoned for rebellion and murder, for whom they asked, and he handed Jesus over to them to deal with as they wished”* (Lk 23,20-25). When one is from Satan, from personal vices and from others, death is always generated on our earth. Today there is a lot of death on earth because man has decided to be from himself.

*After this, Jesus went across the Sea of Galilee (of Tiberias). A large crowd followed him, because they saw the signs he was performing on the sick. Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. The Jewish feast of Passover was near. When Jesus raised his eyes and saw that a large crowd was coming to him, he said to Philip, "Where can we buy enough food for them to eat?" He said this to test him, because he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Two hundred days' wages worth of food would not be enough for each of them to have a little (bit)." One of his disciples, Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?" Jesus said, "Have the people recline." Now there was a great deal of grass in that place. So the men reclined, about five thousand in number. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed them to those who were reclining, and also as much of the fish as they wanted. When they had had their fill, he said to his disciples, "Gather the fragments left over, so that nothing will be wasted." So they collected them, and filled twelve wicker baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves that had been more than they could eat. When the people saw the sign he had done, they said, "This is truly the Prophet, the one who is to come into the world." Since Jesus knew that they were going to come and carry him off to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain alone.*

Jesus is always tempted by Satan and by men so that he is not from God. He goes to the Father and asks him to manifest him his will moment by moment. He cannot be except from the Father. Redemption is from his obedience.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, make us obedient to the Father in everything, in the Holy Spirit.

**The Lord worked with them**

**SAT 25 APRIL (Mk 16,15-20)**

In creation, redemption and salvation Father, Son and Holy Spirit are one work and yet each one acts according to his divine and eternal personal essence. The love that governs everything and moves everything belongs to the Father. The grace that creates and renews everything is of Christ Jesus. The communion which is the essence of life is of the Holy Spirit. In the mystery of the Blessed Trinity every person lives of eternal communion. Even in creation and redemption life is from the communion of every created being. The body of Christ also lives, works and produces from the mystery of the love of the Father, for the grace of Christ and in the communion of the Spirit of the Lord. This truth is admirably revealed in Paul in the First Letter to the Corinthians: *“There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit. To one is given through the Spirit the expression of wisdom; to another the expression of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit; to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit; to another mighty deeds; to another prophecy; to another discernment of spirits; to another varieties of tongues; to another interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit produces all of these, distributing them individually to each person as he wishes. As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit”* (1Cor 12,4-13). Where communion does not reign between the Christian and Christ, the Christian and the Holy Spirit, the Christian and the Father and the Christian and the other Christians, no fruit of eternal life might be produced. Eternal life is from communion.

St. Paul always adds truth to truth. The Letter to the Ephesians thus celebrates the mystery of communion in unity:  *“One body and one Spirit, as you were also called to the one hope of your call; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. And he gave some as apostles, others as prophets, others as evangelists, others as pastors and teachers, to equip the holy ones for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of faith and knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the extent of the full stature of Christ. Rather, living the truth in love, we should grow in every way into him who is the head, Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, with the proper functioning of each part, brings about the body's growth and builds itself up in love”* (Eph 4,4-16). This mystery of unity and communication must never be forgotten. Every Christian with every other Christian. Every Christian with Christ in the Holy Spirit. One is not with Christ if he is not with his body.

*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." So then the Lord Jesus, after he spoke to them, was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God. But they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word through accompanying signs.)*

Jesus acts with the Christian, if the Christian acts with the Christian and together they act to form the body of Christ. If the body of Christ is not formed, the Lord does not act with the Christian or even the Christian with the Christian. Unity breaks, communion dies. We do not work to form the body of Christ. Vain works are performed.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints ensure that we never break the unity and communion with Jesus.

**He interpreted to them what referred to him in all the scriptures**

**SUNDAY 26 APRIL (Lk 24,13-35)**

There are several ways of explaining Scriptures. The first way, which is the most common, is to force the Word to serve our thought of lies, falsehoods and sin. This is the way used by scribes and Pharisees of all time. Both Jeremiah and Jesus denounce this satanic modality: *"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?“* (Jer 8,8-9). *Moreover, the Father who sent me has testified on my behalf. But you have never heard his voice nor seen his form, and you do not have his word remaining in you, because you do not believe in the one whom he has sent. You search the scriptures, because you think you have eternal life through them; even they testify on my behalf. But you do not want to come to me to have life. Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father: the one who will accuse you is Moses, in whom you have placed your hope. For if you had believed Moses, you would have believed me, because he wrote about me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?"”* (Jn 5,37-47). To enslave Scripture to one's own thought is a sin against the Holy Spirit. Truth is transformed into a lie and falsehood is professed in the name of the Holy Spirit.

*Now that very day two of them were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus, and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred. And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him. He asked them, "What are you discussing as you walk along?" They stopped, looking downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know of the things that have taken place there in these days?" And he replied to them, "What sort of things?" They said to him, "The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, how our chief priests and rulers both handed him over to a sentence of death and crucified him. But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel; and besides all this, it is now the third day since this took place. Some women from our group, however, have astounded us: they were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his body; they came back and reported that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who announced that he was alive. Then some of those with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women had described, but him they did not see."*

*And he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them what referred to him in all the scriptures. As they approached the village to which they were going, he gave the impression that he was going on farther. But they urged him, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning (within us) while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?" So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the eleven and those with them who were saying, "The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!" Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.*

The true way to read and explain the Scriptures is from full obedience to their truth and to their every command. With life we ​​show what they say, order and command and with the Word hearts are illuminated with the light of truth and justice that emanates from them. Jesus explains the Scriptures from their complete fulfillment in his body, in his spirit and in his soul. He gives the sum light of Scriptures. No light is like his. He is the Crucified and the Risen One. He illuminates the mystery of his Crucifixion from the glory of the Resurrection. Unfortunately today the Scriptures are reduced to a lie by the lying style of its interpreters. Either we return to the purity of the truth and light contained in them, or we will be consumed, devoured and reduced to dust by falsehood and lies, which are uttered in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Spirit.

Mother of God, Angels, and Saints ensure that Scripture manifests all its light for us.

**That you believe in the one he sent**

**M0NDAY 27 APRIL (Jn 6,22-29)**

Why is it necessary to believe in the Word of Christ, but by believing in Christ, in his Person, sent by God? Because the Father established with an eternal decree that the salvation, life, light, grace, truth, justice, resurrection and bliss of every man is Christ. The Father and the Holy Spirit also give themselves in Christ. Not only Christ is everything, but everything is acquired and lived in Christ, with Christ and for Christ: *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavens, as he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and without blemish before him. In love he destined us for adoption to himself through Jesus Christ, in accord with the favor of his will, for the praise of the glory of his grace that he granted us in the beloved. In him we have redemption by his blood, the forgiveness of transgressions, in accord with the riches of his grace that he lavished upon us. In all wisdom and insight, he has made known to us the mystery of his will in accord with his favor that he set forth in him as a plan for the fullness of times, to sum up all things in Christ, in heaven and on earth.*

Our faith is different than any other faith and creed. Word, life, salvation, redemption and their Author are not only one thing, but everything is lived in Him, with Him and for Him: *“In him we were also chosen, destined in accord with the purpose of the one who accomplishes all things according to the intention of his will, so that we might exist for the praise of his glory, we who first hoped in Christ. In him you also, who have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and have believed in him, were sealed with the promised holy Spirit, which is the first installment of our inheritance toward redemption as God's possession, to the praise of his glory”* (Eph 1,3-14). Jesus was not sent like Moses, Joshua, Samuel, Elijah, Elisha, Isaiah, Jeremiah or even like all the other prophets. Jesus is the only Person of his kind in the history of salvation and humanity. He does not tell men a way of salvation. He is the way of salvation. He does not manifest where men's live is. He is life. This is true of light, truth, justice, mercy and every other gift of grace. Everything is he, everything is in him, everything is lived for him, with him and in him. But also Christian holiness is not outside of him. Our holiness is the conformation of our life to his. The Father is not pleased except in Him. He is pleased with us if we are his children of adoption in Him and if we conform our life to his.

*The next day, the crowd that remained across the sea saw that there had been only one boat there, and that Jesus had not gone along with his disciples in the boat, but only his disciples had left. Other boats came from Tiberias near the place where they had eaten the bread when the Lord gave thanks. When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into boats and came to Capernaum looking for Jesus. And when they found him across the sea they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you get here?" Jesus answered them and said, "Amen, amen, I say to you, you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate the loaves and were filled. Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him the Father, God, has set his seal." So they said to him, "What can we do to accomplish the works of God?" Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in the one he sent."*

It is the will of the Father that we believe in Jesus sent by Him. True faith is in the Person of Jesus. But who is He according to fullness of truth. He is the universal, immortal, eternal Mediator between the Father, the entire creation and every man. But this is still too little. As the Son is the life of the Father, so the Father wants Christ to be the life of every man. He wants that with Christ we become one, becoming one light, truth, grace, love and mercy. This is why we must believe not only in the Word of Jesus, but in Jesus and in all that He, by the will of the Father, is for us. By removing Christ, in whom salvation is, we remain without truth, without light and without eternal life.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints arrange that Christ Jesus returns to be the heart of faith.

**I am the bread of life**

**TUESDAY 28 APRIL (Jn 6,30-35)**

In the Old Testament, eating was spiritual. People were invited to eat Wisdom and the Word: *“Wisdom has built her house, she has set up her seven columns; She has dressed her meat, mixed her wine, yes, she has spread her table. She has sent out her maidens; she calls from the heights out over the city: "Let whoever is simple turn in here; to him who lacks understanding, I say, Come, eat of my food, and drink of the wine I have mixed! Forsake foolishness that you may live; advance in the way of understanding"*” (Pr 9,1-6). *"All you who are thirsty, come to the water! You who have no money, come, receive grain and eat; Come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and milk! Why spend your money for what is not bread; your wages for what fails to satisfy? Heed me, and you shall eat well, you shall delight in rich fare. Come to me heedfully, listen, that you may have life”* (Is 55,1-3). They ate through listening and transformed what was heard into life.

Ezekiel is a prophet of the Lord. The Lord asks him to eat the scroll of his Word. He eats the scroll, transforms the Word of God into his life and announces it as his life so that it becomes the life of the people: “*Son of man open your mouth and eat what I shall give you. It was then I saw a hand stretched out to me, in which was a written scroll which he unrolled before me. It was covered with writing front and back, and written on it was: Lamentation and wailing and woe! He said to me: Son of man, eat what is before you; eat this scroll, then go, speak to the house of Israel. So I opened my mouth and he gave me the scroll to eat. Son of man, he then said to me, feed your belly and fill your stomach with this scroll I am giving you. I ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. He said: Son of man, go now to the house of Israel, and speak my words to them. But I will make your face as hard as theirs, and your brow as stubborn as theirs, like diamond, harder than flint. Fear them not, nor be dismayed at their looks, for they are a rebellious house. Son of man, he said to me, take into your heart all my words that I speak to you; hear them well. Now go to the exiles, to your countrymen, and say to them: Thus says the Lord God! - whether they heed or resist!” ”* (Ez 2,8-3,11). The Apostle Paul also eats the book: *"Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me again and said, "Go, take the scroll that lies open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land." So I went up to the angel and told him to give me the small scroll. He said to me, "Take and swallow it. It will turn your stomach sour, but in your mouth it will taste as sweet as honey." I took the small scroll from the angel's hand and swallowed it. In my mouth it was like sweet honey, but when I had eaten it, my stomach turned sour. Then someone said to me, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings"”* (Rev 10,8-11). Whoever wants to proclaim the Word of God must eat the Word that he will have to proclaim. He must make it his life and blood. The same thing applies to every disciple of Christ Jesus.

*So they said to him, "What sign can you do, that we may see and believe in you? What can you do? Our ancestors ate manna in the desert, as it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" So Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave the bread from heaven; my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." So they said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always." Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst.*

Who wants to make Christ Jesus be known to men must eat Him as Bread of Word, truth and light. He must make the Word of Jesus the only Word of his life. The Word is eaten spiritually. The mission is also to show Him alive. Who wants to show Jesus alive, must really and not only spiritually eat of Him, Bread turned into flesh and Wine transformed into blood. Real flesh and wine, real eating and drinking. We eat Christ, we live for Christ and we show Christ. One does not really eat Christ, he does not show Christ in his reality. We eat Him, to conform ourselves to Him. While we conform to Him, we manifest Him live. The manifestation of Him is the way for faith in Him.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints make us eat Christ in purity of faith, truth and light.

**No one knows the Father except the Son**

**WEDNESDAY 29 APRIL (Mt 11,25-30)**

Never have we heard words similar to those said by Christ Jesus about his Person and his mission. Never before his coming. Never after his coming. If anyone has uttered, utters or will utter them, they are only lies, falsehoods and deception. We know that Moses was great in the eyes of the Lord. But God speaks to him and he listens. Beyond you cannot go: *"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). It is God who reveals himself to Moses. God is the Lord, Moses is the servant. There is no other relationship. God is the Father of Christ. Christ is the Son of God.

Paul is speaking of Christ Jesus. He is one of the greatest "connoisseurs" of the mystery of Christ, but only "connoisseur", nothing more: *“For in him dwells the whole fullness of the deity bodily, and you share in this fullness in him, who is the head of every principality and power. In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not administered by hand, by stripping off the carnal body, with the circumcision of Christ. You were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. And even when you were dead (in) transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, he brought you to life along with him, having forgiven us all our transgressions; obliterating the bond against us, with its legal claims, which was opposed to us, he also removed it from our midst, nailing it to the cross; despoiling the principalities and the powers, he made a public spectacle of them, leading them away in triumph by it”* (Col 2,9-15). But Paul knows by revelation, by vision. He is not the truth of Christ and not even of the Father.

The Apostle John presents Christ. But which does he Christ present? He presents the Christ who showed and revealed himself to him: *“Then I turned to see whose voice it was that spoke to me, and when I turned, I saw seven gold lamp stands and in the midst of the lamp stands one like a son of man, wearing an ankle-length robe, with a gold sash around his chest. The hair of his head was as white as white wool or as snow, and his eyes were like a fiery flame. His feet were like polished brass refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing water. In his right hand he held seven stars. A sharp two-edged sword came out of his mouth, and his face shone like the sun at its brightest. When I caught sight of him, I fell down at his feet as though dead. He touched me with his right hand and said, "Do not be afraid. I am the first and the last, the one who lives. Once I was dead, but now I am alive forever and ever. I hold the keys to death and the netherworld”* (Rev 1,12-18). John sees. Christ Jesus is. John narrates the vision. Christ Jesus is the essence of the vision. A not quantitative, but qualitative, essential and natural difference. It is a matter of different natures and essences.

*At that time Jesus said in reply, "I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him. "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for your selves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."*

Christ is the Word, the truth, the life and the light of the Father. One has the Father if he has Christ. One does not have Christ, he does not have the Father. But what is the way so that Christ gives himself to us and in him he gives us the Father? Listening to his Word and obedience to it. But the Apostles are the ones who have to make his Word resound, conforming to Him and give Him in the sacraments of grace. If they omit the preaching of the Word and the gift of Christ in the sacraments, Christ is not given and the Father is not given. The man remains in his darkness. The Apostles must give Christ Jesus by obedience to a command received.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints ensure that every man is given Christ according to truth.

**They shall all be taught by God**

**THURSDAY 30 APRIL (Jn 6,44-51)**

God instructs directly and indirectly. The two routes might never be separated, divided and made to be autonomous. Being disciples of the Lord means that God returns to his people and his children will listen to his Word: *“The Lord calls you back, like a wife forsaken and grieved in spirit, A wife married in youth and then cast off, says your God. For a brief moment I abandoned you, but with great tenderness I will take you back. In an outburst of wrath, for a moment I hid my face from you; But with enduring love I take pity on you, says the Lord, your redeemer. This is for me like the days of Noah, when I swore that the waters of Noah should never again deluge the earth; So I have sworn not to be angry with you, or to rebuke you. Though the mountains leave their place and the hills be shaken, My love shall never leave you nor my covenant of peace be shaken, says the Lord, who has mercy on you. O afflicted one, storm-battered and unconsoled, I lay your pavements in carnelians, and your foundations in sapphires; I will make your battlements of rubies, your gates of carbuncles, and all your walls of precious stones. All your sons shall be taught by the Lord, and great shall be the peace of your children. In justice shall you be established, far from the fear of oppression, where destruction cannot come near you”* (Is 54,6-14).

Even if the Lord will write his Law in the depths of hearts, the external Word, the one written on the scroll, is always necessary: *“The days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their fathers the day I took them by the hand to lead them forth from the land of Egypt; for they broke my covenant and I had to show myself their master, says the Lord. But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord. I will place my law within them, and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer will they have need to teach their friends and kinsmen how to know the Lord. All, from least to greatest, shall know me, says the Lord, for I will forgive their evildoing and remember their sin no more“”* (Jer 31,31-34).

The Apostle John reminds the disciples of Jesus that they can know the truth of Christ the Lord. They received the Holy Spirit. But he is the external memory of the Word. The Apostle writes it. The Spirit gives its intelligence. The Apostle reminds it: *“But you have the anointing that comes from the holy one, and you all have knowledge. I write to you not because you do not know the truth but because you do, and because every lie is alien to the truth. Who is the liar? Whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ. Whoever denies the Father and the Son, this is the antichrist. No one who denies the Son has the Father, but whoever confesses the Son has the Father as well. Let what you heard from the beginning remain in you. If what you heard from the beginning remains in you, then you will remain in the Son and in the Father. And this is the promise that he made us: eternal life. I write you these things about those who would deceive you. As for you, the anointing that you received from him remains in you, so that you do not need anyone to teach you. But his anointing teaches you about everything and is true and not false; just as it taught you, remain in him”* (1Jn 2,20-27). Internal and External Word must be one.

*No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draw him, and I will raise him on the last day. It is written in the prophets: 'They shall all be taught by God.' Everyone who listens to my Father and learns from him comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, but they died; this is the bread that comes down from heaven so that one may eat it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world."*

How does the Father attract to Jesus? He does through faith in the Word of Jesus. The Word is the way so that the Father can attract. If the Word is not accepted, no faith is given to it and is not obeyed, the Father might do nothing to attract to Christ the Lord. What is the Word of Jesus that must be heard today? The announcement of his offer of eternal life that one has by eating his flesh and drinking his blood.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints arrange that we listen to every Word of Christ the Lord.