**MAY 2020**

***FIRST DECADE OF MAY***

**Is he not the carpenter's son?**

**VENERDÌ 1 MAY (Mt 13,54-58)**

What St. Paul announces to the Corinthians applies to St. Joseph: *“Consider your own calling, brothers. Not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. Rather, God chose the foolish of the world to shame the wise, and God chose the weak of the world to shame the strong, and God chose the lowly and despised of the world, those who count for nothing, to reduce to nothing those who are something, so that no human being might boast before God. It is due to him that you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, as well as righteousness, sanctification, and redemption, so that, as it is written, "Whoever boasts, should boast in the Lord"* (1Cor 1,26-31). After all, Joseph respects the family tradition. His Father David also was a humble person, for he was a flock Keeper: *"He also had Jesse and his sons cleanse themselves and invited them to the sacrifice. As they came, he looked at Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is here before him." But the Lord said to Samuel: "Do not judge from his appearance or from his lofty stature, because I have rejected him. Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the Lord looks into the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab and presented him before Samuel, who said, "The Lord has not chosen him." Next Jesse presented Shammah, but Samuel said, "The Lord has not chosen this one either." In the same way Jesse presented seven sons before Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any one of these." Then Samuel asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?"*

*Jesse replied, "There is still the youngest, who is tending the sheep." Samuel said to Jesse, "Send for him; we will not begin the sacrificial banquet until he arrives here." Jesse sent and had the young man brought to them. He was ruddy, a youth handsome to behold and making a splendid appearance. The Lord said, "There-anoint him, for this is he!"”* (1Sam 16,5-12). The Virgin Mary also is great for her humbleness: *"And Mary said: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my saviour. For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness; behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed. The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name”* (Lk 1,46-49). Jesus also humbled himself , annihilated himself until death by the cross: *"Who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father”* (Phil 2,6-11). It is an honor for Jesus to be the son of a carpenter. Having a humble father, who always lives in the purest obedience to his Lord, is the highest nobility you could wish for.

*He came to his native place and taught the people in their synagogue. They were astonished and said, "Where did this man get such wisdom and mighty deeds? Is he not the carpenter's son? Is not his mother named Mary and his brothers James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas? Are not his sisters all with us? Where did this man get all this?" And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honour except in his native place and in his own house." And he did not work many mighty deeds there because of their lack of faith.*

Greatness according to God and that according to the world do not coincide. Greatness according to the world is measured in power, in supremacy, in possession, in money and in vice. Instead, the one according to God is measured in humility, poverty, virtue, service and obedience to God and his laws. When one lives in the Law of the Lord - and Joseph lives in the highest obedience to his God - no work is vile, because it is always blessed by the Lord and enriched with many fruits by the Lord. Vile is that work which is carried out in dishonesty, injustice, transgression of the Law of God and sin. Vile is every work of man that causes, both spiritual and material damage to his brothers. All that is born of sin is vile, because it damages the justice of God and of men.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, make us be humble, meek and rich in every virtue before God.

**Do you also want to leave?**

**SABATO 2 MAY (Jn 6,60-69)**

The Gospel must be announced in all its parts, without any bias. If the truth of Christ and Christ truth are not accepted, the missionary must go elsewhere: *“Whatever town or village you enter, look for a worthy person in it, and stay there until you leave. As you enter a house, wish it peace. If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; if not, let your peace return to you. Whoever will not receive you or listen to your words - go outside that house or town and shake the dust from your feet. Amen, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town”* (Mt 10,11-15). Missionary and truth of Christ, Christ Jesus and truth of the Father are one. Never can two things be done of them. Christ is welcomed, his truth is welcomed. His truth is not accepted, Christ the Lord is not welcomed. The truth of the missionary is welcomed, Christ is welcomed. We do not welcome Christ, we do not need to welcome his person. The missionary and the truth of Christ Jesus are one. They must never be separated.

Here is how Paul obeys this command of Jesus the Lord: *"On the following Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and with violent abuse contradicted what Paul said. Both Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, "It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first, but since you reject it and condemn yourselves as unworthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles. The word of the Lord continued to spread through the whole region. The Jews, however, incited the women of prominence who were worshipers and the leading men of the city, stirred up a persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their territory. So they shook the dust from their feet in protest against them and went to Iconium”* (At 13,44-52).

Here is what Paul says about the children of his people who leave him and go away: *"Well did the holy Spirit speak to your ancestors through the prophet Isaiah, saying: 'Go to this people and say: You shall indeed hear but not understand. You shall indeed look but never see. Gross is the heart of this people; they will not hear with their ears; they have closed their eyes, so they may not see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and be converted, and I heal them.' Let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will listen"* (At 28,23-28). You leave a people, you stay with the Word of Christ Jesus. Being with men, without the Word of Jesus, is of no use. Salvation is from truth, from the Word and from conversion to it.

*Then many of his disciples who were listening said, "This saying is hard; who can accept it?" Since Jesus knew that his disciples were murmuring about this, he said to them, "Does this shock you? What if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life, while the flesh is of no avail. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe." Jesus knew from the beginning the ones who would not believe and the one who would betray him. And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by my Father." 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 is the truth, full truth of the Father on our earth. What He said in the Capernaum synagogue is Law for every one of his disciples. Whoever accepts this law of his remains with him. Whoever refuses to believe in he can also leave. He cannot declare the truth non-truth, nor can he have disciples who do not believe in his truth. To affirm his truth, he let himself be crucified. The crucifixion to the truth to remain in the truth is the only right way to remain with Him. In the name of the Twelve Simon remains because he believes that the Word of Jesus is the most pure truth of eternal life. The flesh is real flesh. The blood is real blood not for scientific proof - the spiritual body does not fall under science - but because it is the purest Word of the Son of God.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints make us be for the truth, to remain in the truth.

**But they will not follow a stranger**

**SUNDAY 3 MAY (Jn 10,1-10)**

God is the Shepherd of his sheep. This truth, affirmed by all Scripture, requires that it is illuminated by adding every other truth to it. The Psalm sings: *“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness For His name’s sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You have anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows. Surely goodness and loving kindness will follow me all the days of my life, And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever”* (Sal 23 (22) 1-6). The first truth to be added reveals that God is a shepherd, but making use of the priests and kings, constituted by him, even if with different duties, shepherds of his people. But we know that these shepherds did not take care of the flock at all. Isaiah's lament is one of the saddest in all Holy Scripture: *"All you wild beasts of the field, come and eat, all you beasts in the forest! My watchmen are blind, all of them unaware; They are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; Dreaming as they lie there, loving their sleep. They are relentless dogs, they know not when they have enough. These are the shepherds who know no discretion; Each of them goes his own way, every one of them to his own gain: "Come, I will fetch some wine; let us carouse with strong drink, And tomorrow will be like today, or even greater"”*  (Is 56,9-12). When the shepherd is disinterested in his people, it is the ruin of all the flock. The sheep becomes prey to the sheep. The most violent one uses its arrogance against the weak one.

Through the prophet Ezekiel, God promises that he himself would have taken care of his flock. This prophecy is fulfilled in Christ Jesus, the true shepherd of the Father. Whoever is not a shepherd in him, with him and for him, will also be a thief and a brigand, even if consecrated to be a shepherd of his flock. When is a shepherd a true shepherd in Christ, with Christ and for Christ? When he feeds the flock with the most pure Word of Jesus and feeds it with the Bread of the Word and the Bread of the Eucharist. To these divine and eternal realities, he must always add his daily suffering and concern. Pastoral charity that drive him to be consumed also physically for the life of the flock of Christ Jesus. Saint Paul reveals to us that this love is not of everyone: *“I I know that after my departure savage wolves will come among you, and they will not spare the flock. And from your own group, men will come forward perverting the truth to draw the disciples away after them. So be vigilant and remember that for three years, night and day, I unceasingly admonished each of you with tears”* (At 20,29-31). Satan knows that if he conquers a shepherd, he conquered the flock and that’s why he tempts him in many ways.

*"Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever does not enter a sheepfold through the gate but climbs over elsewhere is a thief and a robber. But whoever enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice, as he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has driven out all his own, he walks ahead of them, and the sheep follow him, because they recognize his voice. But they will not follow a stranger; they will run away from him, because they do not recognize the voice of strangers." Although Jesus used this figure of speech, they did not realize what he was trying to tell them. So Jesus said again, "Amen, amen, I say to you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came [before me] are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. A thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy; I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly.*

Today Christ Jesus, like the Father yesterday, uses his pastors who are the Apostles in their successors and the presbyters who live in hierarchical communion with the Bishops. What is the condition for being pastors according to the heart of Christ? Having every pastor the same hierarchical obedience of Christ Jesus towards the Father. As Jesus obeyed the Father it is necessary that the shepherds obey Christ the Lord.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints arrange that every pastor obeys Christ the Lord in everything.

**I am the gate for the sheep**

**MONDAY 4 MAY (Jn 10,1-10)**

It is a good thing to read a passage from the prophet Ezekiel to know the breakdown that occurs in the Lord's flock when a bad pastor takes care of it: *“So they were scattered for lack of a shepherd, and became food for all the wild beasts. My sheep were scattered and wandered over all the mountains and high hills; my sheep were scattered over the whole earth, with no one to look after them or to search for them. As for you, my sheep, says the Lord God, I will judge between one sheep and another, between rams and goats. Was it not enough for you to graze on the best pasture, that you had to trample the rest of your pastures with your feet? Was it not enough for you to drink the clearest water, that you had to foul the remainder with your feet? Thus my sheep had to graze on what your feet had trampled and drink what your feet had fouled. Therefore thus says the Lord God: Now will I judge between the fat and the lean sheep. Because you push with side and shoulder, and butt all the weak sheep with your horns until you have driven them out, I will save my sheep so that they may no longer be despoiled, and I will judge between one sheep and another. I will appoint one shepherd over them to pasture them, my servant David; he shall pasture them and be their shepherd. I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I, the Lord, have spoken. I will make a covenant of peace with them, and rid the country of ravenous beasts, that they may dwell securely in the desert and sleep in the forests”* (Cf. Ez 34,1-25). Without the shepherd, the sheep also become prey to the sheep.

The prophet Hosea reveals that all the evils of the people, even material and not only spiritual, are the fruit of the bad shepherd: *“Hear the word of the Lord, O people of Israel, for the Lord has a grievance against the inhabitants of the land: There is no fidelity, no mercy, no knowledge of God in the land. False swearing, lying, murder, stealing and adultery! in their lawlessness, bloodshed follows bloodshed. Therefore the land mourns, and everything that dwells in it languishes: The beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and even the fish of the sea perish. But let no one protest, let no one complain; with you is my grievance, O priests! You shall stumble in the day, and the prophets shall stumble with you at night; I will destroy your mother. My people perish for want of knowledge! Since you have rejected knowledge, I will reject you from my priesthood; Since you have ignored the law of your God, I will also ignore your sons”* (Hos 4,1-6). The prosperity of a people passes through the diligent work of the shepherd. An eternal truth.

*"Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever does not enter a sheepfold through the gate but climbs over elsewhere is a thief and a robber. But whoever enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice, as he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has driven out all his own, he walks ahead of them, and the sheep follow him, because they recognize his voice. But they will not follow a stranger; they will run away from him, because they do not recognize the voice of strangers." Although Jesus used this figure of speech, they did not realize what he was trying to tell them. So Jesus said again, "Amen, amen, I say to you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came [before me] are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. A thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy; I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly.*

If the shepherd wants to be the door of the sheep, he might be only in Christ, with Christ and for Christ. He must be from Christ in everything, as Christ is from the Father in everything. The obedience of Christ to the Father must be the obedience of the pastor to Christ. But today the flock is not guarded from the thought of Christ Jesus, which is the thought of the Father. It is supported by the thought of men. It is no longer the will of Christ Jesus, which is the will of the Father, which the shepherd teaches. Instead he lets himself be taught by the will of men. When Christ is denied - and this is the true crisis of the shepherd - we always fall into the slavery of the creature. Whether it is slavery to the personal heart, to Satan or other people, it has little importance. The pastor is no longer God's blessing.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints arrange that every Pastor is always from the heart of Christ Jesus.

**My sheep hear my voice**

**TUESDAY 5 MAY (Jn 10,22-30)**

The responsibility of the shepherds in the disaster of the people of God is denounced by Jeremiah with fiery words: *"Listen to the word of the Lord, O house of Jacob! All you clans of the house of Israel, thus says the Lord: What fault did your fathers find in me that they withdrew from me, Went after empty idols, and became empty themselves? They did not ask, "Where is the Lord who brought us up from the land of Egypt, Who led us through the desert, through a land of wastes and gullies, Through a land of drought and darkness, through a land which no one crosses, where no man dwells?" When I brought you into the garden land to eat its goodly fruits, You entered and defiled my land, you made my heritage loathsome. The priests asked not, "Where is the Lord?" Those who dealt with the law knew me not: the shepherds rebelled against me. The prophets prophesied by Baal, and went after useless idols”* (Jer 2,4-8). *"How can you say, "We are wise, we have the law of the Lord"? Why, that has been changed into falsehood by the lying pen of the scribes! The wise are confounded, dismayed and ensnared; Since they have rejected the word of the Lord, of what avail is their wisdom? Therefore, I will give their wives to strangers, their fields to spoilers. Small and great alike, all are greedy for gain, prophet and priest, all practice fraud. They would repair, as though it were nought, the injury to the daughter of my people: "Peace, peace!" they say, though there is no peace. They are odious; they have done abominable things, yet they are not at all ashamed, they know not how to blush”* (Jer 8,8-12). The voice of the prophets is unanimous in the denunciation.

But the Lord does not stop crying out the sin of his shepherds. He comes to give salvation solutions. Here is his promise: *“I will appoint over you shepherds after my own heart, who will shepherd you wisely and prudently”* (Jer 3,15). *Woe to the shepherds who mislead and scatter the flock of my pasture, says the Lord. Therefore, thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, against the shepherds who shepherd my people: You have scattered my sheep and driven them away. You have not cared for them, but I will take care to punish your evil deeds. I myself will gather the remnant of my flock from all the lands to which I have driven them and bring them back to their meadow; there they shall increase and multiply. I will appoint shepherds for them who will shepherd them so that they need no longer fear and tremble; and none shall be missing, says the Lord”* (Jer 23,1-4). Denouncing is useless. We must build, raise, renew, purify, modify and bring everything back to justice and truth. The promises of the Lord are creators of great hopes.

*The feast of the Dedication was then taking place in Jerusalem. It was winter. And Jesus walked about in the temple area on the Portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long are you going to keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." Jesus answered them, "I told you and you do not believe. The works I do in my Father's name testify to me. But you do not believe, because you are not among my sheep. 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."*

A Shepherd without sheep is a shepherd without his Shepherd. The Father, the divine and eternal Shepherd, always gives his sheep to Christ Jesus. The Father always keeps watch so that no one tears the sheep from his hand and not even from the hand of Christ Jesus. But the Shepherd of Christ is his Father. Christ too will watch out that no one tears the sheep from his hand and from the hand of his Pastors, but this happens if the Pastors do not tear themselves from the hand of their Shepherd. When a Shepherd separates himself from Christ, the sheep are separated from the Shepherd. The Pastor does not recognize the voice of Christ. The sheep do not recognize the Shepherd's voice. If today in the Church the Pastors are without sheep, this is due to the choice of the Pastors to be without Christ, following each his own ways and pursuing his own paths. Shepherds without Christ, sheep without Shepherds.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints ensure that every Shepherd let himself be led by the Good Shepherd.

**I did not speak on my own**

**WEDNESDAY 6 MAY (Jn 12,44-50)**

In the Gospel according to John, truth, mother of all truth, is the being of Jesus from the Father. It is not just a matter of missionary or ministerial obedience as his true prophet, true king, true priest or other. Being from the Father of Jesus is of nature, rather than of vocation or mission. The Father and Christ are one divine nature. The Persons are distinct, the nature is one. The truth of Jesus is thus announced by the Holy Spirit: *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. 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. 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).

The unity of being becomes unity of will, mission, redemption and salvation: *“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 3,16-18). *“Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of the one who sent me and to finish his work”* (Jn 4,34). *“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. For just as the Father raises the dead and gives life, so also does the Son give life to whomever he wishes. Nor does the Father judge anyone, but he has given all judgment to his Son, so that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him”* (Jn 5,19-23). *“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"* (Jn 6,26-29). *“So Jesus said (to them), "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will realize that I AM, and that I do nothing on my own, but I say only what the Father taught me. The one who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, because I always do what is pleasing to him"”* (Jn 8,28-29).

With Chapter XII the public mission of Jesus ends. From this moment on he will no longer speak to his people. He will enter the Upper Room, his trial, death sentence and glorious resurrection will follow. How does Jesus close his speech that goes from Chapter I to Chapter XII? With a solemn testimony on his full, perfect, daily and universal obedience on his part towards the Father. What He has said and done, does not come from his heart. Not even the modalities come from Him. Instead, everything comes from the heart of the Father and from his divine and eternal will.

*Jesus cried out and said, "Whoever believes in me believes not only in me but also in the one who sent me, and whoever sees me sees the one who sent me. I came into the world as light, so that everyone who believes in me might not remain in darkness. And if anyone hears my words and does not observe them, I do not condemn him, for I did not come to condemn the world but to save the world. Whoever rejects me and does not accept my words has something to judge him: the word that I spoke, it will condemn him on the last day, because I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. So what I say, I say as the Father told me."*

These words are the seal placed by Jesus on his mission which is entirely from the Father. Whoever does not believe in Him does not believe in the Father who sent him. It is the sealed truth.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints make us of very pure faith in Christ Jesus and faith in the Father.

**Whoever receives the one I send**

**THURSDAY 7 MAY (Jn 13,16-20)**

It is fair to ask: when does a person that welcomes the one Jesus will send welcome Jesus and, in welcomed Jesus, welcome the Father? The answer is offered by Jesus himself, in the Upper Room, after his glorious resurrection: *"On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. (Jesus) said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained"* (Jn 20,19-23). If the missionary wants that by welcoming his person, Jesus is welcomed and in Jesus, the Father is also welcome; like Jesus, he must show that there is full communion of obedience. As Christ is obedient to the Father, so the disciple is obedient to Christ. The truth of obedience is given by the truth of love.

Here is the truth of Jesus' love and here is also his commandment: *“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. Amen, amen, I say to you, no slave is greater than his master nor any messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you understand this, blessed are you if you do it.* *Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me." 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. I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" ”* (Cf. Jn 13,1-35). Love is the sign of truth.

*Amen, amen, I say to you, no slave is greater than his master nor any messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you understand this, blessed are you if you do it. I am not speaking of all of you. I know those whom I have chosen. But so that the scripture might be fulfilled, 'The one who ate my food has raised his heel against me.' From now on I am telling you before it happens, so that when it happens you may believe that I AM. Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me."*

St. Paul asks the Christians of his communities for this love: *“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). When the missionary presents himself with this love, he cannot but be from Christ. When one is from the fullness of the love of Christ, he is also from the fullness of his truth. Jesus is from the perfection of the Father's love. He cannot fail to be from the perfection of the divine truth. Whoever welcomes him, welcomes the Father who sent him. So it is with the disciple. He is from the perfection of love and truth. Whoever welcomes him welcomes Jesus.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, make us from the love of Jesus to be from his truth.

**Have faith also in me**

**FRIDAY 8 MAY (Jn 14,1-6)**

Faith is born from listening to the Word of God. But the Word of God does not come to us directly. It is mediated. Today it comes to us through the Word of the Apostles of the Lord, which is the Word of Christ Jesus. As Jesus asks for faith in Him, so the Apostles will have to ask for faith in them. As Jesus attests that He is from the Father and says the Word of the Father, so also the Apostles must attest that they are from Christ Jesus and say the Word of Christ Jesus. Jesus attests that he is from the Father through the signs he does: *“So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay across it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the dead man's sister, said to him, "Lord, by now there will be a stench; he has been dead for four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus raised his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me; but because of the crowd here I have said this, that they may believe that you sent me." And when he had said this, he cried out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth. So Jesus said to them, "Untie him and let him go." 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”* (Jn 11,38-46). Without faith in the missionary of God there is no faith in God. Without faith in the missionary of Christ, there is no faith in Christ. If there is no real faith in Christ, there is also no real faith in God. There is no real faith in Christ's missionary, there is no real faith in Christ, there is no real faith in God. Therefore, it is up to the missionary of Christ to attest that he is always from Christ Jesus. He must show that he is never from his heart, from his will and from his desires. He is only from Christ Jesus.

*"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be. Where (I) am going you know the way." Thomas said to him, "Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*

Which way does St. Paul give so that the missionary of Jesus, the Apostle or any other disciple of his, testifies that he is always and only from Christ the Lord? Paul's path is the highest charisma, charity: *“If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, (love) is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things” (*1Cor 13,1-7). *Let love be sincere; hate what is evil, hold on to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; anticipate one another in showing honor. Do not grow slack in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the holy ones, exercise hospitality”* (Rm 12,9-13). Living charity in the manner of Jesus, who offers his life as a ransom for the Father's sheep, each of his disciples attests to and reveals that he is from his Master. Seeing that he is from Jesus, he will be heard and believed, because his Word is also from Jesus and is Jesus’. Every Word of Jesus is given in the Holy Spirit and produces fruits of true conversion and salvation. Showing, testifying and revealing that they are of Jesus is an obligation for those who want to be his missionaries for the gift of the Word of life.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints ensure that every Christian testifies he is of Jesus and from Him.

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

**SATURDAY 9 MAY (Jn 14,7-14)**

As Christ Jesus is in the Father, so must the disciple be in Christ Jesus. As Jesus remains in the Father, so also must the disciple remain in Christ Jesus. As Christ grows in wisdom, grace, obedience, charity, love, justice and all virtues so must also the disciple grow in wisdom, grace, obedience, charity, love, justice and all virtues. As Jesus lives his intimate union, communion and unity with the Father, in the Holy Spirit, so too is the disciple called to live by intimate union, communion and unity with Jesus the Lord, in the Holy Spirit. With baptism one becomes one body of Christ. the Holy Spirit regenerates us as new creatures. This happens through the announcement of the Word and the explicit and direct invitation so that we allow ourselves to be reconciled with God, in Christ Jesus, through the new creation made in us by the Spirit of the Lord: *“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).

By living in the Father, for the Father and with the Father, in every Word and work Jesus shows the Father. The same is also true of every disciple of Jesus. By living in him, with him and through him, the disciple manifests and reveals Christ Jesus in everything. As Jesus says: "Whoever sees me, sees the Father", so also the disciple must always be able to say: "Whoever sees me sees Christ the Lord." First, in Paul this vision of Christ is of the heart, of the words and of the works. Later it also becomes of his body: *“I have been crucified with Christ; yet I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me; insofar as I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God who has loved me and given himself up for me. I do not nullify the grace of God; for if justification comes through the law, then Christ died for nothing”* (Gal 2,19-31). *But may I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither does circumcision mean anything, nor does uncircumcision, but only a new creation. Peace and mercy be to all who follow this rule and to the Israel of God. From now on, let no one make troubles for me; for I bear the marks of Jesus on my body”* (Gal 6,14-17). Christ reveals the Father. The Apostle, the disciple reveals Christ Jesus. The path of faith n Christ is perfect.

*If you know me, then you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him." Philip said to him, "Master, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you for so long a time and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on my own. The Father who dwells in me is doing his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else, believe because of the works themselves. Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father. And whatever you ask in my name, I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything of me in my name, I will do it.*

Today we complain that no one believes in Christ anymore. If nobody believes it is because Christ is no longer seen. We do not believe in the preached Christ because the shown Christ is missing. We show Christ alive, we preach Christ by showing Christ, we will always believe in Christ.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints arrange that the disciples show Christ so that people believe in Him.

**I will come back again and take you to myself**

**SUNDAY 10 MAY (Jn 14,1-12)**

Love is inclusive. Sin is exclusive. Love unites. Sin divides. Love makes the other person become a part of oneself. Sin separates, divides, distances and does not even recognize whoever has become part of himself. God loves the man of eternal love. His is an inclusive love. The Father wants every man to become part of himself. This admirable unity is created in Christ Jesus. By the work of the Holy Spirit. In Baptism we become the body of Christ, we are made partakers of the divine nature. Having become one body, as one body we must live, act and operate. As the one body we must always, with the love and proclamation of Christ, call every man to become the body of Christ. To include in God, through his body, Jesus loved, by giving his Father his life for our redemption. The Christian loves if he forms the body of Christ. He also loves by giving his life to Christ, so that every other man can become the body of Christ. If one does not include into the body of Christ, our love is sterile, vain, untrue and non-existent.

Paul has consumed his entire life to include every man into the body of Christ: *“Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ on behalf of his body, which is the church, of which I am a minister in accordance with God's stewardship given to me to bring to completion for you the word of God, the mystery hidden from ages and from generations past. But now it has been manifested to his holy ones, to whom God chose to make known the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; it is Christ in you, the hope for glory. It is he whom we proclaim, admonishing everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. For this I labor and struggle, in accord with the exercise of his power working within me. 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 1,23-2,15). This mystery of unity does not dissolve with death. It remains forever, provided that at the moment of death we will be found in this mystery and not outside, because of our sins.

*"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be. Where (I) am going you know the way." Thomas said to him, "Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, then you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him." Philip said to him, "Master, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you for so long a time and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on my own. The Father who dwells in me is doing his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else, believe because of the works themselves. Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father.*

That is why Jesus precedes his disciples in heaven. He goes to prepare a place. Then he will come back, he will come and, at the moment of death, he will take us where He is, to be eternally the body of his body and the life of his life. Today on earth we want to live in sin, separated from Christ, without even knowing Christ. Never might we be with Him tomorrow.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints make us one with Christ today to be one tomorrow.

**MAY 2020**

***SECOND DECADE OF MAY***

**He will remind you of all that (I) told you.**

**LUNEDÌ 11 MAY (Jn 14,21-26)**

The remembrance of Christ Jesus will be done by the Holy Spirit directly and indirectly. The direct way is the one done to the Angels of the seven Churches of Asia by the Spirit of the Lord through the Apostle John: *“I, John, your brother, who share with you the distress, the kingdom, and the endurance we have in Jesus, found myself on the island called Patmos because I proclaimed God's word and gave testimony to Jesus. I was caught up in spirit on the Lord's day and heard behind me a voice as loud as a trumpet, which said, "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea." To the angel of the church in Ephesus, write this: " 'The one who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks in the midst of the seven gold lampstands says this: "I know your works, your labor, and your endurance, and that you cannot tolerate the wicked; you have tested those who call themselves apostles but are not, and discovered that they are impostors. Moreover, you have endurance and have suffered for my name, and you have not grown weary. Yet I hold this against you: you have lost the love you had at first. Realize how far you have fallen. Repent, and do the works you did at first. Otherwise, I will come to you and remove your lamp stand from its place, unless you repent. But you have this in your favor: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. " '"Whoever has ears ought to hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the victor I will give the right to eat from the tree of life that is in the garden of God."'* (Cf. Rev. 1,1-3,2,1-7). The Spirit does not act only by inspiration or motion, but also by vision.

A direct way is also the one lived by Peter, so that the Church opened to the pagans and welcomed them into her bosom: *“The next day, while they were on their way and nearing the city, Peter went up to the roof terrace to pray at about noontime. He was hungry and wished to eat, and while they were making preparations he fell into a trance. He saw heaven opened and something resembling a large sheet coming down, lowered to the ground by its four corners. In it were all the earth's four-legged animals and reptiles and the birds of the sky. A voice said to him, "Get up, Peter. Slaughter and eat." But Peter said, "Certainly not, sir. For never have I eaten anything profane and unclean." The voice spoke to him again, a second time, "What God has made clean, you are not to call profane." This happened three times, and then the object was taken up into the sky. While Peter was in doubt about the meaning of the vision he had seen, the men sent by Cornelius asked for Simon's house and arrived at the entrance. They called out inquiring whether Simon, who is called Peter, was staying there. As Peter was pondering the vision, the Spirit said (to him), "There are three men here looking for you. So get up, go downstairs, and accompany them without hesitation, because I have sent them"* (At 10, 9-20). The Church will always be comforted by the presence of the Holy Spirit. He will always be the one to intervene and remind her of the mystery of Christ Jesus.

*Whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me. And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him." Judas, not the Iscariot, said to him, "Master, (then) what happened that you will reveal yourself to us and not to the world?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; yet the word you hear is not mine but that of the Father who sent me. "I have told you this while I am with you. The Advocate, the holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name - he will teach you everything and remind you of all that (I) told you.*

An indirect way is what happened in the Council of Jerusalem. Here are the Apostles who take a decision in the Holy Spirit, but after having listened to the Holy Spirit: “*'It is the decision of the holy Spirit and of us not to place on you any burden beyond these necessities, namely, to abstain from meat sacrificed to idols, from blood, from meats of strangled animals, and from unlawful marriage. If you keep free of these, you will be doing what is right. Farewell.'"* (Acts 15,28-29). Without the living, lasting and permanent comfort of the Holy Spirit, the Church could never live. Darkness would invade every heart and mind.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, arrange that each disciple tastes the presence of the Spirit.

**I do just as the Father has commanded me**

**TUESDAY 12 MAY (Lk Jn 14,27-31)**

Jesus can act just as the Father has commanded him, because he is always moved and guided by the Holy Spirit, who has alighted on him with all his divine essence and all his operation: *“But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom. The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, A spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the Lord, and his delight shall be the fear of the Lord. Not by appearance shall he judge, nor by hearsay shall he decide, But he shall judge the poor with justice, and decide aright for the land's afflicted. He shall strike the ruthless with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked. Justice shall be the band around his waist, and faithfulness a belt upon his hips”* (Is 11,1-5). This prophecy is fulfilled after his baptism in the Jordan River: “After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased"” (Lk 3,21-22).

In the synagogue of Nazareth Jesus reveals the fulfillment of the prophecy and also the mission that the Father wants him to accomplish: *He came to Nazareth, where he had grown up, and went according to his custom into the synagogue on the Sabbath day. He stood up to read and was handed a scroll of the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord." Rolling up the scroll, he handed it back to the attendant and sat down, and the eyes of all in the synagogue looked intently at him. He said to them, "Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing""* (Lk 4,16-21). That Jesus always acts from the will of the Father and never from the will of men, is revealed immediately: "*At daybreak, Jesus left and went to a deserted place. The crowds went looking for him, and when they came to him, they tried to prevent him from leaving them. But he said to them, "To the other towns also I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God, because for this purpose I have been sent." And he was preaching in the synagogues of Judea"* (Lk 4,41-44). It is very pure truth: Jesus was never from the will of a single man, not even from the will of Mary or Joseph. He did and said everything through full, total and perfect obedience to the Father.

*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid. You heard me tell you, 'I am going away and I will come back to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father; for the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it happens, so that when it happens you may believe. I will no longer speak much with you, for the ruler of the world is coming. He has no power over me, but the world must know that I love the Father and that I do just as the Father has commanded me.*

Jesus does not suffer passion and death by crucifixion because sin and darkness are superiour to him, to his light, wisdom, fortitude and intelligence. The world has no power over him. Jesus voluntarily offers himself to the passion to attest to the world how great his love for the Father is. The Father asks him to love him above his own life, consecrating all his life to him and the Son obeys. The whole life of Jesus was only obedience. Satan and men daily tempt him so that he separates himself from obedience to his Father's will and he makes himself either from his own or from the will of men or from the will of Satan. Jesus never fell into a single temptation. Not a single thought, not a single work has ever sprung from his heart or from his compassion. All in him was from the heart of the Father and from his eternal love of salvation and redemption for men. This truth of Christ must be the truth of each of his disciples. If the disciple passes from the heart of Christ to his heart and from the will of the Master to his will, it is the end of the fulfillment of the mystery of salvation. He will love with a human love, but without salvation.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, always make us from the heart and thought of Christ Jesus.

**Become my disciples**

**WEDNESDAY 13 MAY (Jn 15,1-8)**

There is no true disciple if one does not become the invisible body of Christ Jesus and at the same time his visible body which is his one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. The disciple of Jesus, the disciple of the kingdom, or the son of the kingdom, is born with baptism: *“Jesus answered and said to him, "Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can a person once grown old be born again? Surely he cannot reenter his mother's womb and be born again, can he?" Jesus answered, "Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of flesh is flesh and what is born of spirit is spirit. Do not be amazed that I told you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it wills, and you can hear the sound it makes, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes; so it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit"”* (Jn 3,4-7). Baptism opens the door to every other sacrament.

Only those who believe in Christ Jesus, the Father's gift for our salvation, can receive baptism: *“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””* (Jn 3,16-21). Believing in Christ is welcoming the Word of Christ Jesus.

We live as true disciples, receiving every day the Spirit without measure that is a gift of Christ Jesus: *“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”* (Jn 3,31-36). Making disciples is the command of Christ Jesus to the Twelve. They are the ones who must grow every day as disciples of Jesus in order to make disciples of Jesus all peoples and nations: 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. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age"* (Mt 28,18-20). If the Word of Jesus is so clear, why do Christians today teach that baptism is useless and that the baptized differs from the not baptized in nothing?

*"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and everyone that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit. You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you. Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.*

Whoever wants to become a true disciple of Jesus must always remain in the true vine which is Christ the Lord. Our unwillingness to make disciples, to form the Body of Christ and to preach the Gospel, reveals that we are not bad disciples of Jesus, but true disciples of Satan. He is our teacher. Otherwise we would not be ministers of his darkness.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, arrange that no Christian is a disciple of Satan.

**Remain in my love**

**THURSDAY 14 MAY (Jn 15,9-17)**

We remain in the love of Jesus, only if we keep his commandments. They are summarized in the eight Beatitudes and in the six accomplishments of the ancient Law: *“I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter into the kingdom of heaven. "You have heard that it was said to your ancestors, 'You shall not kill; and whoever kills will be liable to judgment.' But I say to you, whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment, and whoever says to his brother, 'Raqa,' will be answerable to the Sanhedrin, and whoever says, 'You fool,' will be liable to fiery Gehenna. "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you, everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. "It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife must give her a bill of divorce.' But I say to you, whoever divorces his wife (unless the marriage is unlawful) causes her to commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.”*

*"Again you have heard that it was said to your ancestors, 'Do not take a false oath, but make good to the Lord all that you vow.' But I say to you, do not swear at all; not by heaven, for it is God's throne; nor by the earth, for it is his footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Do not swear by your head, for you cannot make a single hair white or black. Let your 'Yes' mean 'Yes,' and your 'No' mean 'No.' Anything more is from the evil one. "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, offer no resistance to one who is evil. When someone strikes you on (your) right cheek, turn the other one to him as well. If anyone wants to go to law with you over your tunic, hand him your cloak as well. Should anyone press you into service for one mile, go with him for two miles. Give to the one who asks of you, and do not turn your back on one who wants to borrow. "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father, for he makes his sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what recompense will you have? Do not the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brothers only, what is unusual about that? Do not the pagans do the same? So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect”* (Cf. Mt 5,1-.7,29-48). This love must be completed with the total gift of our life to Christ for the salvation of every man. This love begins with the disciples for the disciples. If one disciple does not love the other disciple, consecrating him his life for his redemption and salvation, never might he love those who are not disciples. True love for disciples manifests true love for every other man. One must always start with the disciples.

*As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. This I command you: love one another.*

Love lived on the model of Christ Jesus is the condition for the disciple to enter the kingdom of heaven. If Jesus thus spoke, thus taught and thus lived, loving the Father with the gift of his whole life, why have Jesus' disciples today been totally unhinged from the Law of Christ and his precepts or commandments? Whoever loves Christ is incardinated to his Law. Who does not love him, is unhinged. Today we are building a Christianity without reference to the Word of Christ anymore, nor to his grace and nor to his Holy Spirit. Without Christ everything will become a valley of lifeless bones.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints make us true disciples of Jesus, obedient to his Word.

**I appointed you to go and bear fruit**

**FRIDAY 15 MAY (Jn 15,12-17)**

What fruits should the Apostles of the Lord and, learning from them, each of his disciples bear? The fruits they are to bear are all revealed in the Gospel according to Matthew. The first fruit is to become small children, for the kingdom: *“I At that time the disciples approached Jesus and said, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" He called a child over, placed it in their midst, and said, "Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives me.”* The second fruit consists in avoiding all scandals. The scandal is similar to a match lit in a wheat field ready for harvest. To grow the wheat it took about eight months, to be destroyed suffice a few minutes*: "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea. Woe to the world because of things that cause sin! Such things must come, but woe to the one through whom they come!”* The third fruit is the one of always going in search of the lost sheep: *"What is your opinion? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them goes astray, will he not leave the ninety-nine in the hills and go in search of the stray? And if he finds it, amen, I say to you, he rejoices more over it than over the ninety-nine that did not stray. In just the same way, it is not the will of your heavenly Father that one of these little ones be lost.”* These are the essential, fundamental and primary fruits.

The fourth fruit is fraternal correction according to the style and modalities indicated by the Lord Jesus: *"If your brother sins (against you), go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won over your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, so that 'every fact may be established on the testimony of two or three witnesses.' If he refuses to listen to them, tell the church. If he refuses to listen even to the church, then treat him as you would a Gentile or a tax collector. Amen, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”* Correction is the essence of the life of the body of Christ. If those in the community who are in charge do not correct moral and doctrinal errors, soon the whole body of Christ Jesus will fall into heresy, schisms, idolatry and immorality. The fifth fruit is communion in prayer. Communion in faith and communion in prayer must be one: *"Again, (amen,) I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."* The sixth fruit is forgiveness seventy times seven: *"Then Peter approaching asked him, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times””* (Cf. Mt 18,1-35). These fruits are the foundation on which the body of Christ is built day by day. Bearing these fruits is Jesus' command.

*This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. This I command you: love one another.*

In the Gospel nothing is left to the feeling, the heart, the mind and the will of the individual disciple. Each member of the body of Christ has his own particular fruit to bear. These fruits are universal. They are a commandment for everyone. Then the Apostles will do the Apostles, the Elders the Elders, the Deacons the Deacons, the Confirmed the Confirmed and the Baptized the Baptized. But everyone will have to produce these essential fruits.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, ensure that every Christian produces these essence fruits.

**They do not know the one who sent me**

**SATURDAY 16 MAY (Jn 15,18-21)**

Hate against God starts from far away, in heaven itself. Lucifer has fallen into the sad sin of pride. He wanted to make himself like God, in everything similar to Him. However, he forgot that He is only a creature. He is not eternal and is not divine. He didn't even create himself . A thing impossible to happen either in heaven, or on earth, or in the underworld and or even in God: that God can create himself. God is eternal. Without beginning and without end. Every being receives life from the being. The created being from the Eternal Divine uncreated being. Lucifer drew a third of Angels on his side and all were precipitated by their Creator into eternal darkness. This defeat produced and produces a double fruit: of hatred against God and of envy against man. He inoculates these two fruits in all those he is able to drag to his side. Every proud one hates God and fights him. He consecrates himself to evil for the ruin of those who still believe in Christ Jesus.

The description Revelation offers us of the power of hate and envy is terrifying: *“Then I saw a beast come out of the sea with ten horns and seven heads; on its horns were ten diadems, and on its heads blasphemous name (s). The beast I saw was like a leopard, but it had feet like a bear's, and its mouth was like the mouth of a lion. To it the dragon gave its own power and throne, along with great authority. I saw that one of its heads seemed to have been mortally wounded, but this mortal wound was healed. Fascinated, the whole world followed after the beast. They worshiped the dragon because it gave its authority to the beast; they also worshiped the beast and said, "Who can compare with the beast or who can fight against it?" The beast was given a mouth uttering proud boasts and blasphemies, and it was given authority to act for forty-two months. It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling and those who dwell in heaven. It was also allowed to wage war against the holy ones and conquer them, and it was granted authority over every tribe, people, tongue, and nation. All the inhabitants of the earth will worship it, all whose names were not written from the foundation of the world in the book of life, which belongs to the Lamb who was slain.”*

A single beast is not enough. Here comes a second one: *“Then I saw another beast come up out of the earth; it had two horns like a lamb's but spoke like a dragon. It wielded all the authority of the first beast in its sight and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose mortal wound had been healed. It performed great signs, even making fire come down from heaven to earth in the sight of everyone. It deceived the inhabitants of the earth with the signs it was allowed to perform in the sight of the first beast, telling them to make an image for the beast who had been wounded by the sword and revived. It was then permitted to breathe life into the beast's image, so that the beast's image could speak and (could) have anyone who did not worship it put to death. It forced all the people, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to be given a stamped image on their right hands or their foreheads, so that no one could buy or sell except one who had the stamped image of the beast's name or the number that stood for its name. Wisdom is needed here; one who understands can calculate the number of the beast, for it is a number that stands for a person. His number is six hundred and sixty-six”* (Rev. 13,1-18). Who fights and will always fight the beast and those who are taken by admiration for it? Always the disciples of Christ Jesus.

*"If the world hates you, realize that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, the world would love its own; but because you do not belong to the world, and I have chosen you out of the world, the world hates you. Remember the word I spoke to you, 'No slave is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. And they will do all these things to you on account of my name, because they do not know the one who sent me.*

Not only do they not know the Father who sent Christ Jesus, neither do they want to know him. They fight him. They also want to remove the memory of him from every heart.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, give us all wisdom so as not to fall into temptation.

**Whoever loves me will be loved by my Father**

**SUNDAY 17 MAY (Jn 14,15-21)**

Is it fair to ask, who loves Christ Jesus? And more. How do you love him? Love for Jesus is twofold because it comes from a twofold source: from the Gospel and the Holy Spirit. From the Gospel love is born which is obedience to every moral or even spiritual law. Every word of Jesus must be observed, it must be given all obedience, if you want to love the Lord. But then there is the second source, the Holy Spirit. Here is how St. Paul outlines this love 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. 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. Now you are Christ's body, and individually parts of it. Some people God has designated in the church to be, first, apostles; second, prophets; third, teachers; then, mighty deeds; then, gifts of healing, assistance, administration, and varieties of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work mighty deeds? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?” (Cf. 1Cor 12,1-31). Each member of the body of Christ, while observing the Law of Christ, obeys the mission that the Holy Spirit has conferred through the charisma bestowed on him.

In the Letter to the Ephesians he also gives this way to love according to the Holy Spirit: “*I, then, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace: 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”* (Eph 4,1-16). If we don't live the love that flows from the Gospel, never might weyou live the love that comes from the Holy Spirit. The more we grow in love according to the Gospel, the more love according to the Spirit of God will grow.

*"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, which the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows it. But you know it, because it remains with you, and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me. And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him."*

Whoever wants to be powerfully led by the Holy Spirit must be strong, indeed very strong in the love of obedience to the law of Christ. We love the Gospel, we obey it, we listen to the Word of Jesus, the Holy Spirit comes, takes up residence in us and lives in us. But what is the purpose for which the Spirit drives and moves us? The goal is one and it is always the same, unchanging over the centuries: making the body of Christ grow in holiness, so that it may grow in the acquisition of new members. A body that does not grow in numbers attests that it does not grow even in holiness. Holiness multiplies children for our God. If we do not grow in holiness, it is a sign that we are out of the first obedience: obedience to every Word of Jesus. When the Christian is without the Gospel he is also without the Spirit.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints make us Christians with true obedience to Christ and the Spirit.

**He will testify to me**

**MONDAY 18 MAY (Jn 15,26-16,4)**

The testimony that the Holy Spirit gives to Christ Jesus is twofold. Jesus testifies what he has seen in heaven and what he has seen on earth. His testimony is very pure truth, because in eternity and in time he has always been and he is always with Jesus. The prologue is his testimony on Christ Jesus before creation, in creation and after incarnation: *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him. But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name, who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man's decision but of God. And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. 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). Without the testimony of the Holy Spirit no one might know Christ in his invisible mystery. Without knowledge of the invisible mystery, not even the visible mystery can ever be known. It is the reason why those who are without the Spirit of the Lord are also without the knowledge of Jesus. Without the Holy Spirit every Word of the Lord is reduced to a lie, a falsehood. Today's drama is just that.

*"When the Advocate comes whom I will send you from the Father, the Spirit of truth that proceeds from the Father, he will testify to me. And you also testify, because you have been with me from the beginning. "I have told you this so that you may not fall away. They will expel you from the synagogues; in fact, the hour is coming when everyone who kills you will think he is offering worship to God. They will do this because they have not known either the Father or me. I have told you this so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you. "I did not tell you this from the beginning, because I was with you.*

How does the Holy Spirit testify to the visible mystery of Christ Jesus? First of all by illuminating the minds so that they understand what is written about him in the Law, in the Prophets, in the Psalms and throughout the Old and New Testaments. The Church always lives on this comfort. It is for him that the flame of truth always burns from the bush of Scripture, without ever consuming the Sacred Text, indeed always drawing full truth from it. And then strengthening the heart for an ever greater obedience to the will of Christ Jesus. St. Paul in the Letter to the Ephesians asks this to be always the disciple of Jesus in a full light: *“Finally, draw your strength from the Lord and from his mighty power. Put on the armor of God so that you may be able to stand firm against the tactics of the devil. For our struggle is not with flesh and blood but with the principalities, with the powers, with the world rulers of this present darkness, with the evil spirits in the heavens. Therefore, put on the armor of God, that you may be able to resist on the evil day and, having done everything, to hold your ground. So stand fast with your loins girded in truth, clothed with righteousness as a breastplate, and your feet shod in readiness for the gospel of peace. In all circumstances, hold faith as a shield, to quench all (the) flaming arrows of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. With all prayer and supplication, pray at every opportunity in the Spirit. To that end, be watchful with all perseverance and supplication for all the holy ones”* (Eph 6,10-18). With this inner strength in the heart, the fruit of his piety, the Holy Spirit will give that necessary light so that the mystery of the Lord may always be luminous before his eyes and always pure to his mind. Nothing is known without the Holy Spirit. Nothing. Never.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints arrange that we never separate from the divine light of the Spirit.

**It is better for you that I go**

**TUESDAY 19 MAY (Jn 16,5-11)**

The mystery of human redemption is accomplished with the sacrifice of Christ in his body on the cross: *“For this reason, when he came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; holocausts and sin offerings you took no delight in. Then I said, 'As is written of me in the scroll, Behold, I come to do your will, O God.'" First he says, "Sacrifices and offerings, holocausts and sin offerings, you neither desired nor delighted in." These are offered according to the law. Then he says, "Behold, I come to do your will." He takes away the first to establish the second. By this "will," we have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. Every priest stands daily at his ministry, offering frequently those same sacrifices that can never take away sins. But this one offered one sacrifice for sins, and took his seat forever at the right hand of God; now he waits until his enemies are made his footstool. For by one offering he has made perfect forever those who are being consecrated. The holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying: "This is the covenant I will establish with them after those days, says the Lord: 'I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them upon their minds,'" he also says: "Their sins and their evildoing I will remember no more." Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer offering for sin”* (Heb 10,5-18). If Jesus does not go, passing through the way of the cross, no redemption is accomplished and man remains in his sin. He will never be transformed into a new creature.

St. Paul has a very lively image. He says that Jesus in his body on the cross canceled, burned the document of our debt, whose conditions were unfavorable for us: *“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 2,9-16). That is why it is good for Jesus to go away. His death offered to the Father has as its fruit the redemption and salvation of every man. The mystery is great.

*But now I am going to the one who sent me, and not one of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' But because I told you this, grief has filled your hearts. But I tell you the truth, it is better for you that I go. For if I do not go, the Advocate will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes he will convict the world in regard to sin and righteousness and condemnation: sin, because they do not believe in me; righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will no longer see me; condemnation, because the ruler of this world has been condemned. Coming of the Advocate.*

Jesus is not from his heart and never from the heart of men. The human heart sees an immediate, futile, vain and often even sinful profit. Jesus is always from the heart of the Father, who, in the eternal wisdom of the Holy Spirit, sees eternal good for man and according to this good he always works. God does not act for ephemeral, but for eternal goods. The eternal good is the eternal life of man. The Apostles of the Lord are also sent to the world not to realize ephemeral goods, but to produce the eternal good of redemption and salvation that is accomplished by announcing the Gospel, inviting every man to conversion, baptizing those who believe in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit and forming the invisible and visible body of Christ. Body of invisible Christ and body of visible Christ must be one body. You never have to think them separable. The Apostles are sent into the world to form the visible body of Jesus.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, arrange that the invisible body never separates from the visible body.

**He will guide you to all truth**

**WEDNESDAY 20 MAY (Jn 16,12-15)**

Usually when you think about the truth, the mind runs to the mystery or concept that there is in every Word of Scripture. The Holy Spirit would come to let us know what has been revealed of the mystery of Christ Jesus according to the fullness of the truth contained in every Word written in the sacred pages. This is a part of his guide, but not all of his guide. If we add to this first vision of truth a second one, which is our truth, that truth written by God, in Christ, for the Holy Spirit, which each of us must realize, then the meaning becomes full and perfect. The Spirit is given so that each of us can accomplish in his life what has been written for us not with partial, but full and perfect realization. Jesus was guided by the Holy Spirit from the moment of conception until the day of his glorious ascension to heaven, to carry out all the mystery written for him in the Law, in the Prophets and in the Psalms. Our mystery to be accomplished was also written in Scripture, both in the Old and New Testaments. This written mystery must be realized by bringing to fruition charismas, ministries, vocations and particular missions. But who knows its mystery? Only the Holy Spirit. Who can teach and reveal it to us? The Holy Spirit. Who can lead us to the whole truth? The Holy Spirit. Who can transform us from men according to nature to people according to the Holy Spirit? Only the Holy Spirit. No one else can do this. Just as Jesus was taken by the hand by the Spirit and guided to all his truth that was accomplished on the day of his resurrection, so the Spirit must take us and lead us to all our truth, which will come true on the day of our glorious resurrection.

St. Paul reveals this truth to the Corinthians: *“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. Among human beings, who knows what pertains to a person except the spirit of the person that is within? Similarly, no one knows what pertains to God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the things freely given us by God. And we speak about them not with words taught by human wisdom, but with words taught by the Spirit, describing spiritual realities in spiritual terms. Now the natural person does not accept what pertains to the Spirit of God, for to him it is foolishness, and he cannot understand it, because it is judged spiritually. The spiritual person, however, can judge everything but is not subject to judgment by anyone. For "who has known the mind of the Lord, so as to counsel him?" But we have the mind of Christ”* (1Cor 2,6-16). Whoever is not powerfully planted in the Holy Spirit, cannot be guided by him to the realization of all his truth. His life will sink on the rocks of falsehood, error, foolishness, impiety, immorality and idolatry.

*"I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now. But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth. He will not speak on his own, but he will speak what he hears, and will declare to you the things that are coming. He will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you. Everything that the Father has is mine; for this reason I told you that he will take from what is mine and declare it to you.*

The Holy Spirit will guide us to the whole truth of the mystery of Christ Jesus, helping us to realize it entirely in our life. There is no point in having only a conceptual knowledge of the mystery of the Lord Jesus. Truth is truth when it becomes our life. Until we have not reached the glory of heaven, the path in truth must be uninterrupted.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, ensure that we walk from truth to truth towards all truth.

**MAY 2020**

***THIRD DECADE OF MAY***

**Your grief will become joy**

**THURSDAY 21 MAY (Jn 16,16-20)**

Jesus is on the cross. The disciples are in tears and sadness. Jesus rises. They are in great joy. Jesus is in the great tribulation. He is called back to life by the Father, giving him a spiritual, glorious, incorruptible and immortal body. He is raised above the heavens and seated on his right hand. The suffering has been great. Joy is divinely and eternally greater. The Father has transformed his suffering into eternal joy by multiplying it for eternity and moreover, by his sacrifice, the Father gives the grace of salvation and redemption to every man who believes in the name of his Only Begotten Son. Even the disciple of Jesus for a moment of suffering, for a suffered martyrdom, will receive an immense amount of glory and eternal joy. No drop of blood will be lost. Everything will become glory and perfect joy.

The Book of Revelation reveals us how great the joy of the saved and in particular of the martyrs is: *“After this I had a vision of a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation, race, people, and tongue. They stood before the throne and before the Lamb, wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation comes from our God, who is seated on the throne, and from the Lamb." All the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They prostrated themselves before the throne, worshiped God, and exclaimed: "Amen. Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving, honor, power, and might be to our God forever and ever. Amen." Then one of the elders spoke up and said to me, "Who are these wearing white robes, and where did they come from?" I said to him, "My lord, you are the one who knows." He said to me, "These are the ones who have survived the time of great distress; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. "For this reason they stand before God's throne and worship him day and night in his temple. The one who sits on the throne will shelter them. They will not hunger or thirst anymore, nor will the sun or any heat strike them. For the Lamb who is in the center of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to springs of life-giving water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes"”* (Rev 7,9-17). We are in the glory.

St. Paul reveals that present time sufferings are not at all comparable to the glory of Paradise: *“The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if only we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us. But we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that sees for itself is not hope. For who hopes for what one sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait with endurance”* (Cf. Rm 8,16-25). The martyrdom of a moment is rewarded by the Father with an eternal glory that is without measure and without end. But to see the glory of heaven the eyes of the Holy Spirit are needed. All the saints had these eyes and made of life a sacrifice to God.

*"A little while and you will no longer see me, and again a little while later and you will see me." So some of his disciples said to one another, "What does this mean that he is saying to us, 'A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me,' and 'Because I am going to the Father'?" So they said, "What is this 'little while' (of which he speaks)? We do not know what he means." Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, "Are you discussing with one another what I said, 'A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me'? Amen, amen, I say to you, you will weep and mourn, while the world rejoices; you will grieve, but your grief will become joy.*

We can possess the eyes of the Holy Spirit to contemplate future glory prematurely, if we ask our Father to make us with a pure, humble and meek heart, in all similar to the heart of Jesus. However, this prayer must be the fruit of a will that wants to obey every command of Christ the Lord, according to his Word.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, obtain for us the constancy to walk towards heaven.

**No one will take your joy away from you**

**FRIDAY 22 MAY (Jn 16,20-23)**

The joy of the Apostles is the Lord. Why might no one take Jesus away from the disciples, who is their joy, after the resurrection? Because Jesus rises with a spiritual, as well as glorious, incorruptible and immortal body, and it is proper to a spiritual body being simultaneously in every place of heaven and earth, of time and eternity, but also personally and entirely of each individual Apostle. The body of flesh is limited. The spiritual body is unlimited. For example, the same body is present with a real presence in all the consecrated hosts of the earth. If Jesus is individually with each Apostle - and also with each disciple - might there be a single power in the world capable of preventing Jesus from being with each member of his body? It suffices to read the Acts of the Apostles and it will be observed that Jesus is always with his body, which is the Church. There is no Christ without the Church, there is no Church without Christ Jesus. Christ Jesus and the Church are forever one life and not two.

In Revelation it is revealed that Jesus is the Lord who holds the book of the history of all humanity. Time and eternity are in his hands: “*I saw a scroll in the right hand of the one who sat on the throne. It had writing on both sides and was sealed with seven seals. Then I saw a mighty angel who proclaimed in a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to examine it. I shed many tears because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to examine it. One of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. The lion of the tribe of Judah, the root of David, has triumphed, enabling him to open the scroll with its seven seals." Then I saw standing in the midst of the throne and the four living creatures and the elders, a Lamb that seemed to have been slain. He had seven horns and seven eyes; these are the (seven) spirits of God sent out into the whole world. He came and received the scroll from the right hand of the one who sat on the throne. When he took it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each of the elders held a harp and gold bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of the holy ones. They sang a new hymn: "Worthy are you to receive the scroll and to break open its seals, for you were slain and with your blood you purchased for God those from every tribe and tongue, people and nation. You made them a kingdom and priests for our God, and they will reign on earth." I looked again and heard the voices of many angels who surrounded the throne and the living creatures and the elders. They were countless in number, and they cried out in a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches, wisdom and strength, honor and glory and blessing." Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, everything in the universe, cry out: "To the one who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor, glory and might, forever and ever." The four living creatures answered, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped”* (Rev 5,1-14). If Jesus is the Lord, will there be anyone who might snatch us from the hand of the Lord to plunge us into eternal sadness and anguish? Only the single person can decide, in foolishness, to leave Jesus. No one else might ever.

*Amen, amen, I say to you, you will weep and mourn, while the world rejoices; you will grieve, but your grief will become joy. When a woman is in labour, she is in anguish because her hour has arrived; but when she has given birth to a child, she no longer remembers the pain because of her joy that a child has been born into the world. So you also are now in anguish. But I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away from you. On that day you will not question me about anything. Amen, amen, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in my name he will give you.*

Today a very strong temptation is affecting Christians. It is making them exile Jesus from their life and from the life of the world. Many disciples suffer from a strong inferiority complex before other religions. We are like in the time of the children of Israel. These, suffering the same complex as the invisible God, clung to the visible idols of the pagans. But those were only objects, matter, nothingness and vanity. What was the most bitter fruit of idolatry? They became useless and vanity like the idols they worshiped.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, free us from this foolish and insane inferiority complex.

**I came from the Father and have come into the world**

**SATURDAY 23 MAY (Jn 16,23-28)**

Jesus comes out of the Father with his incarnation. In truth, he does not go out of the Father, because he and the Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, subsist in the only divine nature. He took on the flesh. From God that he is, he became true man, remaining true God. It is the revealed truth that He is always in the bosom of the Father. Never might he be separated from it. This divine and human truth is admirably contained in the Prologue of the Gospel according to John:  *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. 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. 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). With the incarnation the Eternal Person of the Word, or of the Son of the Most High, of the Only Begotten of the Father, also exists in human nature. Human nature is not in the sky. It is on earth. It is not in eternity. It is in time. With the death of Jesus and his glorious resurrection, his human nature, transformed into spirit and clothed in glory, immortality and incorruptibility, will also be taken to eternity and will sit at the right hand of the Father.

Confessing this truth, that is, that Jesus is the Incarnate God for our redemption and salvation, is the way so that we don't die in our sins. For faith in this truth the Father gives us justification and eternal life, on condition that we persevere in faith and walk with perfect obedience in this eternal, divine and human truth of his Eternal Word. That is how Jesus speaks to the Jews: *“He said to them again, "I am going away and you will look for me, but you will die in your sin. Where I am going you cannot come." So the Jews said, "He is not going to kill himself, is he, because he said, 'Where I am going you cannot come'?" He said to them, "You belong to what is below, I belong to what is above. You belong to this world, but I do not belong to this world. That is why I told you that you will die in your sins. For if you do not believe that I AM, you will die in your sins." So they said to him, "Who are you?" Jesus said to them, "What I told you from the beginning. 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." They did not realize that he was speaking to them of the Father. So Jesus said (to them), "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will realize that I AM, and that I do nothing on my own, but I say only what the Father taught me. The one who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, because I always do what is pleasing to him"* (Jn 8,21-29). Jesus is not only eternal light from eternal light, true eternal God from true eternal God, who is the Father, in the Holy Spirit. He is also from his divine and eternal will. As a true man He teaches us how, in the Holy Spirit, we must obey the Father in all his desires, words, will, and command. His every Word and work are Word and work that the Father utters and carries out through him.

*On that day you will not question me about anything. Amen, amen, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in my name he will give you. Until now you have not asked anything in my name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete. "I have told you this in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures but I will tell you clearly about the Father. On that day you will ask in my name, and I do not tell you that I will ask the Father for you. For the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have come to believe that I came from God. I came from the Father and have come into the world. Now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father."*

The time has come for Jesus to carry out all the Father's will. His passion, death and resurrection is the highest, highest and true revelation of his Father, in the Holy Spirit. Seeing Jesus Crucified, the Apostles know how great Jesus' love for the Father is. On the other hand, seeing the risen Jesus they will know how great the Father's love for Jesus is. The life of Jesus is all revelation of the Father.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, arrange that the Christian's life is the revelation of Christ Jesus.

**Make disciples of all nations**

**SUNDAY – ASCENSION – 24 MAY (Mt 28,16-20)**

With the mystery of the glorious ascension of Jesus into heaven in body and soul, the visible mission of Christ Jesus ends. Now his invisible mission begins. It is made by the invisible presence of his Person, through which the Father works in the Spirit, and by the visible presence of his body, which is the Church, in which the Father always works, through the Holy Spirit. Jesus saying to his disciples: "I am with you every day, until the end of the world", means that the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit will be with the disciples, if the disciples will be in Christ Jesus. How will they be in Christ Jesus? In the same way that Christ Jesus is in the Father, in the unity and communion of the Holy Spirit. Christ Jesus is in the Father by nature and by will. Even the disciple must remain in Christ by nature - he is with Christ one body by the work of the Holy Spirit - and by will - obeying every Word of Jesus the Lord, by motion and guide of the Holy Spirit. If the disciple separates himself from the grace and truth of Christ Jesus, he will be alone, terribly alone, and no mission of salvation can be accomplished for him. The work of salvation is done for him if it is done in him. It is fulfilled in him if he lives in the love of the Father, in the grace of Christ Jesus and in the communion of the Holy Spirit. The eternal and unchangeable truth.

But what does the mission that the disciples will have to accomplish consist in? It essentially consists in four commands to be observed. Note well. It is neither a matter of advice, nor of modalities left to their free will, intelligence, training and or anything else. Perfect obedience must always be given to the command. If they obey they accomplish the mission, if they do not obey, they go into the world only to shake the wind or to play with the dust. They may also not believe, absurdly. But they must obey. The life of Jesus was obedience to every command from the Father. The life of the Apostles must be obedience to every command of Christ Jesus. Also because the fourth command given to them by Jesus orders them to teach those who will become disciples how to live every Word said by their Master and Lord. It becomes impossible to teach the disciples if the first three commands are not observed. The disciples do not even exist, because they were not made by them. The first command requires that the disciples go to the world, to every place and corner of the earth. Going is command. Stopping is disobedience. Who goes, obeys. Who does not go, disobeys, With this first disobedience, every other command falls and dies. You might not obey.

*The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them. When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted. 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. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."*

The second command orders that all peoples, none excluded, be made disciples of Jesus. In front of a command of Jesus there are no reasons either of a philosophical, theological, psychological, anthropological or other nature that can cancel the order received. Making disciples, always according to the rules of the Gospel, never according to human rules, is the command. However, man might refuse to become a disciple. In this case the apostle is no longer responsible for his eternal perdition. The third command requires that everyone who accepts the Gospel is baptized in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Professors, teachers, doctors, apostles, prophets, evangelists, ministers of the word and every other disciple of Jesus must know that these commands are binding forever and ever. The command is not the fruit of our mind. It is not an elaboration of our heart. The command is order. The order must be executed. It is true betrayal of the Gospel to deny these three commands. Even because there is also the fourth one that asks to teach the disciples how to live the Gospel. How might we teach how to live the Gospel and to whom, if the first three commands are disregarded? If today the mission is in serious crisis it is because of disobedience to these four commands of the Lord. Disciples are not made. People are not baptized. Nobody teaches.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, ensure that every Christian obeys every Word of Jesus.

**Take courage, I have conquered the world**

**MONDAY 25 MAY (Jn 16,29-33)**

Jesus conquered the world because he remained in his Father’s love and in the communion of the Holy Spirit. The Apostle John also gives the Christian the rules for winning the world. The world that remains in the knowledge of the Father and in his love, those who live in the grace of Christ and obedience to his Word, those who live in the Holy Spirit, walk in his truth and produces his fruits of eternal life, win: *“I am writing to you, children, because your sins have been forgiven for his name's sake. I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have conquered the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father. I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong and the word of God remains in you, and you have conquered the evil one. Do not love the world or the things of the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, sensual lust, enticement for the eyes, and a pretentious life, is not from the Father but is from the world. Yet the world and its enticement are passing away. But whoever does the will of God remains forever. Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that the antichrist was coming, so now many antichrists have appeared. Thus we know this is the last hour. They went out from us, but they were not really of our number; if they had been, they would have remained with us. Their desertion shows that none of them was of our number. 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”* (1Jn 2,12-23). When one falls from true faith in Christ, he also falls from true faith in the Father and the Holy Spirit. The world is not defeated by falsehood. We have already been defeated by the world.

*His disciples said, "Now you are talking plainly, and not in any figure of speech. Now we realize that you know everything and that you do not need to have anyone question you. Because of this we believe that you came from God." Jesus answered them, "Do you believe now? Behold, the hour is coming and has arrived when each of you will be scattered to his own home and you will leave me alone. But I am not alone, because the Father is with me. I have told you this so that you might have peace in me. In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world."*

If the Christian wants to win the world, he must remain in the purest faith in Christ and grow in it for all the days of his life: *“Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is begotten by God, and everyone who loves the father loves (also) the one begotten by him. In this way we know that we love the children of God when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whoever is begotten by God conquers the world. And the victory that conquers the world is our faith. Who (indeed) is the victor over the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the one who came through water and blood, Jesus Christ, not by water alone, but by water and blood. The Spirit is the one that testifies, and the Spirit is truth. So there are three that testify, the Spirit, the water, and the blood, and the three are of one accord. If we accept human testimony, the testimony of God is surely greater. Now the testimony of God is this, that he has testified on behalf of his Son. Whoever believes in the Son of God has this testimony within himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar by not believing the testimony God has given about his Son. And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever possesses the Son has life; whoever does not possess the Son of God does not have life”* (1Jn 5,1-12). Let nobody think that the world can be overcome by denying, betraying and altering the pure faith in Christ Jesus. The loss of faith is already a defeat. Declaring baptism useless is already a defeat. Making morality dependent on man's will is already a defeat. We are without true faith in Jesus.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, make us of the purest faith in Christ and in his eternal truth.

**I revealed your name to those whom you gave me**

**TUESDAY 26 MAY (Jn 17,1-11)**

The Father and Christ Jesus, in the Holy Spirit, are one mystery of salvation. No one can come to know the Father without knowing Christ Jesus. It is by knowing Christ that the Father is known. Christ manifests himself in all his truth and his love and in him, with him and for him we know all the truth and charity of the Father. What Jesus says about himself in relation to the Father, the Christian must also say about himself in relation to Christ the Lord: *"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"”* (Mt 11,25-20). As the Father is known for Christ, in Christ and with Christ, so also Christ Jesus is known through the Christian, in the Christian and with the Christian. As Jesus manifested the Father by doing his will, so the Christian manifests Christ, by doing his will.

Can The Christian say today: "Nobody might ever know Christ except through me, through my life which is a manifestation of his obedience and his love, his justice and his truth?". Without true knowledge of Christ, never might there be true knowledge of the Father. It is this today that is consuming, more than a cancer, the mind and heart of many of Jesus' disciples: the removal of Christ from their life, with the will of presenting a God deprived of the scandal and foolishness of the cross. In doing so, not only do we act contrary to what St. Paul reveals to us, but we also destroy the same mystery of the true God, which is all in the mystery of his true Christ: *"Rather, God chose the foolish of the world to shame the wise, and God chose the weak of the world to shame the strong, and God chose the lowly and despised of the world, those who count for nothing, to reduce to nothing those who are something, so that no human being might boast before God. It is due to him that you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, as well as righteousness, sanctification, and redemption, so that, as it is written, "Whoever boasts, should boast in the Lord." When I came to you, brothers, proclaiming the mystery of God, I did not come with sublimity of words or of wisdom. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. I came to you in weakness and fear and much trembling, and my message and my proclamation were not with persuasive (words of) wisdom, but with a demonstration of spirit and power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God"* (1Cor 1,27-2,5). Christ's life is entirely consecrated to manifest the Father. The Christian's life is all aimed at manifesting Christ. If we do not manifest Christ, we build ourselves on a false God.

*When Jesus had said this, he raised his eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come. Give glory to your son, so that your son may glorify you, just as you gave him authority over all people, so that he may give eternal life to all you gave him. Now this is eternal life, that they should know you, the only true God, and the one whom you sent, Jesus Christ. I glorified you on earth by accomplishing the work that you gave me to do. Now glorify me, Father, with you, with the glory that I had with you before the world began. "I revealed your name to those whom you gave me out of the world. They belonged to you, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you gave me is from you, because the words you gave to me I have given to them, and they accepted them and truly understood that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for the ones you have given me, because they are yours, and everything of mine is yours and everything of yours is mine, and I have been glorified in them. And now I will no longer be in the world, but they are in the world, while I am coming to you.*

Today many Christians have become builders of idols. They have lost their glory.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints arrange that Christians are not builders of false divinities.

**I protected them in your name**

**WEDNESDAY 27 MAY (Jn 17,11-19)**

Jesus guarded the disciples in the name of the Father, guarding himself in the name of his Father. Saint Paul gives the same rule to Timothy. If he wants to guard the Church in the name of Christ, he must guard himself in the name of Christ Jesus: *“Now the Spirit explicitly says that in the last times some will turn away from the faith by paying attention to deceitful spirits and demonic instructions through the hypocrisy of liars with branded consciences. They forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected when received with thanksgiving, for it is made holy by the invocation of God in prayer. If you will give these instructions to the brothers, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound teaching you have followed. Avoid profane and silly myths. Train yourself for devotion, for, while physical training is of limited value, devotion is valuable in every respect, since it holds a promise of life both for the present and for the future. This saying is trustworthy and deserves full acceptance. For this we toil and struggle, because we have set our hope on the living God, who is the savior of all, especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things. Let no one have contempt for your youth, but set an example for those who believe, in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity. Until I arrive, attend to the reading, exhortation, and teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was conferred on you through the prophetic word with the imposition of hands of the presbyterate. Be diligent in these matters, be absorbed in them, so that your progress may be evident to everyone. Attend to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in both tasks, for by doing so you will save both yourself and those who listen to you* (1Tm 4,1-16). He guards in Christ who is guarded in Christ. Never might he guard whoever does not guard himself. It is a universal rule will. It applies to everyone.

*And now I will no longer be in the world, but they are in the world, while I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one just as we are. 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. I do not ask that you take them out of the world but that you keep them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. Consecrate them in the truth. Your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I sent them into the world. And I consecrate myself for them, so that they also may be consecrated in truth.*

Today we are witnessing a universal Christological drift. It attests to our non-custody. If we are ashamed of Christ, the whole world will despise our Redeemer and Savior. Who does not love Christ does not help to love Christ. Paul's words must help us: *“For this reason, I remind you to stir into flame the gift of God that you have through the imposition of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control. So do not be ashamed of your testimony to our Lord, nor of me, a prisoner for his sake; but bear your share of hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God. He saved us and called us to a holy life, not according to our works but according to his own design and the grace bestowed on us in Christ Jesus before time began, but now made manifest through the appearance of our savior Christ Jesus, who destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, for which I was appointed preacher and apostle and teacher. On this account I am suffering these things; but I am not ashamed, for I know him in whom I have believed and am confident that he is able to guard what has been entrusted to me until that day. Take as your norm the sound words that you heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Guard this rich trust with the help of the holy Spirit that dwells within us* (2Tm 1,6-14). Today, if the world despises Christ, it is because Christians do not keep themselves in the name of Christ. Without Christ, they will worship a God who is a mute idol. It is a grave responsibility to help the world to despise Christ with our non faith in Him.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, arrange that every Christian keeps himself in Christ Jesus.

**I made known to them your name**

**THURSDAY 28 MAY (Jn 17,20-26)**

Every day Jesus grows in wisdom and grace, never stops in the knowledge of the Father. He knows the Father. He makes the Father known. Paul, Apostle of the Lord, every day runs after Christ Jesus to know everything about him: *“I even consider everything as a loss because of the supreme good of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have accepted the loss of all things and I consider them so much rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having any righteousness of my own based on the law but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God, depending on faith to know him and the power of his resurrection and (the) sharing of his sufferings by being conformed to his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. It is not that I have already taken hold of it or have already attained perfect maturity, but I continue my pursuit in hope that I may possess it, since I have indeed been taken possession of by Christ (Jesus). Brothers, I for my part do not consider myself to have taken possession. Just one thing: forgetting what lies behind but straining forward to what lies ahead, I continue my pursuit toward the goal, the prize of God's upward calling, in Christ Jesus. Let us, then, who are "perfectly mature" adopt this attitude. And if you have a different attitude, this too God will reveal to you. Only, with regard to what we have attained, continue on the same course. Join with others in being imitators of me, brothers, and observe those who thus conduct themselves according to the model you have in us. For many, as I have often told you and now tell you even in tears, conduct themselves as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction. Their God is their stomach; their glory is in their "shame." Their minds are occupied with earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will change our lowly body to conform with his glorified body by the power that enables him also to bring all things into subjection to himself”* (Cf. Phil 3,1-21). Today, every disciple is in need of being guarded in Christ. He guards who guards himself in Christ.

*"I pray not only for them, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me. And I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may be brought to perfection as one, that the world may know that you sent me, and that you loved them even as you loved me. Father, they are your gift to me. I wish that where I am they also may be with me, that they may see my glory that you gave me, because you loved me before the foundation of the world. Righteous Father, the world also does not know you, but I know you, and they know that you sent me. I made known to them your name and I will make it known, that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in them."*

Here is how Paul guards the disciples in the truth and charity of Christ Jesus: *“So I declare and testify in the Lord that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds; darkened in understanding, alienated from the life of God because of their ignorance, because of their hardness of heart, they have become callous and have handed themselves over to licentiousness for the practice of every kind of impurity to excess. That is not how you learned Christ, assuming that you have heard of him and were taught in him, as truth is in Jesus, that you should put away the old self of your former way of life, corrupted through deceitful desires, and be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and put on the new self, created in God's way in righteousness and holiness of truth. Therefore, putting away falsehood, speak the truth, each one to his neighbor, for we are members one of another. Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun set on your anger, and do not leave room for the devil. The thief must no longer steal, but rather labor, doing honest work with his (own) hands, so that he may have something to share with one in need. No foul language should come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for needed edification, that it may impart grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the holy Spirit of God, with which you were sealed for the day of redemption. All bitterness, fury, anger, shouting, and reviling must be removed from you, along with all malice. (And) be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving one another as God has forgiven you in Christ* (Eph 4,17-32). Never might we guard if we do not guard ourselves in truth and charity.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, ensure that the Christian keeps himself in the truth in order to keep others in it.

**Simon, son of John, do you love me?**

**FRIDAY 29 MAY (Jn 21,15-19)**

Whoever wants to feed the flock of Christ first he must be the one to feed himself of Christ. Christ feeds himself on the Father and the Holy Spirit, he feeds the disciples of the Father and the Holy Spirit. To the extent that Simon Peter will feed himself on Christ, and in him he will feed himself on the Father and the Spirit of the Lord, he might feed the sheep and lambs of Christ Jesus, and in Christ, for Christ and with Christ he might feed them on the Father and the Holy Spirit. The more he grows in the love and truth of Christ, the more the Lord's flock will grow in Christ. If he doesn't grow, the flock won't grow either. If he detaches himself from Christ, the flock will also detach itself. His faith in Christ and his love are the measure of the faith and love of all the flock entrusted to him. Never must the flock be led by the partiality of truth and by a love that does not conform to the purity that is in the heart of the Father. If this were to happen, it would be the loss of all the Lord's flock. Since the body of Christ lives in the communion of charismas and ministries, Simon Peter too must let himself be helped directly by Christ Jesus and indirectly by the Holy Spirit through his brothers in faith. Direct help and indirect help are needed.

Here is a direct help example: *“While Peter was still speaking these things, the holy Spirit fell upon all who were listening to the word. The circumcised believers who had accompanied Peter were astounded that the gift of the holy Spirit should have been poured out on the Gentiles also, for they could hear them speaking in tongues and glorifying God. Then Peter responded, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people, who have received the holy Spirit even as we have?" He ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for a few days”* (Cf. At 10,1-48). Now, the whole Church knows that the acceptance of pagans in the Church is by the will of the Holy Spirit.

*When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." He then said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was distressed that he had said to him a third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." (Jesus) said to him, "Feed my sheep. Amen, amen, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to dress yourself and go where you wanted; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." He said this signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when he had said this, he said to him, "Follow me."*

Here is a Holy Spirit direct example help: *“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). In the body of Christ, it is the law of the Holy Spirit that each one serves his brothers by letting himself be served by his brothers. Jesus also serves his disciples by letting himself be served in many things by them. He lets himself be served in material things, never in those of the Holy Spirit, because they still lack them. In his body instead, since all have been filled with the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of some must be placed at the service of the Spirit of others. If Peter wants to serve, he must let himself be served. He must let himself be served by the Holy Spirit both directly and indirectly. If the Church is the home and school of communion in the Holy Spirit, everyone must let himself be served by the Spirit of the Lord, in order to be able to serve his brothers according to truth and charity. In the Letter to the Galatians it is well highlighted how Paul lets himself be served by Peter and how Peter lets himself be served by Paul. The way of true and holy service.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, make us be humble in serving by letting ourselves be served.

**Lord, what about him?**

**SATURDAY 30 MAY (Jn 21,20-25)**

The mystery of every vocation is a mystery which is jealously guarded in the heart of the Father. This mystery is only revealed day-to-day by the Holy Spirit to the mind of each individual called. Everyone must ask the Spirit of God to reveal to him what he must do, according to the will of God. But everyone must also invoke the Spirit to always lead him on the right path and straighten him should he swerve or bend both to the right and to the left. Saul was seized by the Lord on the road to Damascus. The Lord manifested the mystery of this call to Ananias, wanting to reassure the Church that everything started from his heart. The persecuting Saul no longer existed. He had added a faithful missionary to the community, to be sent to the pagans for their conversion: *“There was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias, and the Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight and ask at the house of Judas for a man from Tarsus named Saul. He is there praying, and (in a vision) he has seen a man named Ananias come in and lay (his) hands on him, that he may regain his sight." But Ananias replied, "Lord, I have heard from many sources about this man, what evil things he has done to your holy ones in Jerusalem. And here he has authority from the chief priests to imprison all who call upon your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for this man is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before Gentiles, kings, and Israelites, and I will show him what he will have to suffer for my name." So Ananias went and entered the house; laying his hands on him, he said, "Saul, my brother, the Lord has sent me, Jesus who appeared to you on the way by which you came, that you may regain your sight and be filled with the holy Spirit." Immediately things like scales fell from his eyes and he regained his sight. He got up and was baptized, and when he had eaten, he recovered his strength”* (At 9,10-19). The Lord makes known a part of the mystery. The whole mystery of a man always remains hidden in his heart. It is the Holy Spirit who reveals it as it must be realized in history. Today for today. Tomorrow for tomorrow.

*Peter turned and saw the disciple following whom Jesus loved, the one who had also reclined upon his chest during the supper and had said, "Master, who is the one who will betray you?" When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, "Lord, what about him?" Jesus said to him, "What if I want him to remain until I come? What concern is it of yours? You follow me." So the word spread among the brothers that that disciple would not die. But Jesus had not told him that he would not die, just "What if I want him to remain until I come? (What concern is it of yours?)" It is this disciple who testifies to these things and has written them, and we know that his testimony is true. There are also many other things that Jesus did, but if these were to be described individually, I do not think the whole world would contain the books that would be written.*

Simon Peter would like to know the mystery of John. Jesus replies him that this will never be possible. The mystery is hidden in the heart of the Father. It will be the Spirit of the Lord to reveal it, just as it is going to be fulfilled. Answering this way, Jesus teaches us that each of us must pay all attention to know what the Lord has written for him and to be able to carry it out with all wisdom and intelligence in the Holy Spirit. Today Simon Peter is invited to follow Jesus, to walk behind him. But even Jesus did not know where he would have laid his head in death. His days were all written in the Father's heart and revealed to him day by day to give them complete fulfillment according to the truth and charity that are in the Father and in the Holy Spirit. Every day Simon Peter will also have to ask the Holy Spirit to enlighten him so that he can fulfill what is written for him in the heart of the Father, for Christ and in the Holy Spirit. Paul is sent on a mission by the Holy Spirit. But it is always the Spirit who leads him to the places where the Father wants to bring his salvation. Does Paolo know his tomorrow? It is revealed to him tomorrow by the Holy Spirit. Having this supernatural vision is necessary so that we do the Father's will, in Christ, for the Holy Spirit and also to help others to know and fulfill it in Christ for the Holy Spirit.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, make sure that everything in us is always by the Holy Spirit.

**Receive the holy Spirit**

**SUNDAY – PENTECOST – 31 MAY (Jn 20,19-23)**

With the gift of the Holy Spirit, Jesus gives mandate to his Apostles to build the city of God, in opposition to the city of men, whose name is Babel. Let us read in Genesis: *“The whole world spoke the same language, using the same words. While men were migrating in the east, they came upon a valley in the land of Shinar and settled there. They said to one another, "Come, let us mold bricks and harden them with fire." They used bricks for stone, and bitumen for mortar. Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the sky, and so make a name for ourselves; otherwise we shall be scattered all over the earth." Lord came down to see the city and the tower that the men had built. Then the Lord said: "If now, while they are one people, all speaking the same language, they have started to do this, nothing will later stop them from doing whatever they presume to do. Let us then go down and there confuse their language, so that one will not understand what another says." Thus the Lord scattered them from there all over the earth, and they stopped building the city. That is why it was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the speech of all the world. It was from that place that he scattered them all over the earth”* (Gen 11,1-9).Babel is the city of pride, creator of confusion and distancing men from each other. It is also the great city of idolatry and immorality. In the prophets, Babel will soon be replaced with Babylon, the city of injustice, idolatry, immorality, slavery and every vice.

Who is sent by the Father and by Christ Jesus to build the new city, in which the new humanity must live, it also to be built and assembled, is the Holy Spirit. But not alone, but through the Apostles of Jesus. These, in the Holy Spirit and for him, must build the new humanity, baptizing each man and regenerating him as a new creature, aggregating him to the new city which is the body of Christ, his Church. The newly regenerated and newly aggregated must be nourished with the love of the Father, the grace of Christ Jesus and the truth and the light of the Holy Spirit. The Apostles must carry out this work without any interruption. Never might the Spirit work, if they don't work. The new city is not built and not even the new humanity might be regenerated. It is the Apostles and Bishops, their successors, in communion with each other and with Simon Peter, their Supreme Shepherd in truth and charity who are in Christ Jesus, the Fathers, who will have to form the body of Christ with the addition of new members; they will have to perpetually nourish it with grace and truth, with light and eternal life, they must keep it in the charity of the Father, in the life of Christ and in the holiness of the Spirit of God. If they, omitting their ministry of light and grace, of regeneration and nourishment of the body of Christ, they dedicate themselves to something else, the new humanity will never be built and the holy city which is the body of Christ will never be built on our 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."*

Collaborators of the Apostles in the construction of the body of Christ and in the regeneration and creation of the new humanity are the priests, the deacons and each confirmed and baptized. Everyone must participate with his particular charisma, special ministry, singular vocation and mission. If even one person deprives the Holy Spirit of his work, the construction of the city slows down his works and the body of Christ does not shine with all the power of his light and love. That is St. Paul: *“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”* (Ef 4,11-13). Each is asked for his work.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints make us builders of the body of Christ and the new humanity.