**Elijah will indeed come and restore all things**

**SATURDAY DICEMBER 12 (Mt 17,10-13)**

The Lord comes to judge the earth. Before the judgment he will send Elijah to invite every man to conversion. Thus the coming of the Lord will be favorable for anyone who is converted: “*For, the day is coming, blazing like an oven, when all the proud and all evildoers will be stubble, And the day that is coming will set them on fire, leaving them neither root nor branch, says the LORD of hosts. But for you who fear my name, there will arise the sun of justice with its healing rays; And you will gambol like calves out of the stall and tread down the wicked; They will become ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day I take action, says the LORD of hosts. Remember the law of Moses my servant, which I enjoined him on Horeb, The statutes and ordinances for all Israel. I will send you Elijah, the prophet, Before the day of the LORD comes, the great and terrible day, To turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the land with doom. I will send you Elijah, the prophet, Before the day of the LORD comes, the great and terrible day.” (Mal 3,19-24).* This prophecy is taken up by Sirach and thus announced: “*Till like a fire there appeared the prophet whose words were as a flaming furnace. Their staff of bread he shattered, in his zeal he reduced them to straits; By God's word he shut up the heavens and three times brought down fire. How awesome are you, ELIJAH! Whose glory is equal to yours? You brought a dead man back to life from the nether world, by the will of the LORD. You sent kings down to destruction, and nobles, from their beds of sickness. You heard threats at Sinai, at Horeb avenging judgments. You anointed kings who should inflict vengeance, and a prophet as your successor. You were taken aloft in a whirlwind, in a chariot with fiery horses.You are destined, it is written, in time to come to put an end to wrath before the day of the LORD, To turn back the hearts of fathers toward their sons, and to reestablish the tribes of Jacob. Blessed is he who shall have seen you before he dies” (Sir 48,1-11).* However, we know that between the letter of the prophecy and its fulfillment there is the eternal wisdom of the Holy Spirit. every word of His is fulfilled according to the truth placed in it by the Spirit, not according to our interpretations. According to the truth of the Holy Spirit, Elijah does not come to prepare for the final judgment day. Instead, he comes to prepare hearts to welcome the Messiah, the Christ who is about to come. This is his mission. Christ is welcomed, we enter God's salvation.

*Then the disciples asked him, "Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?" He said in reply, "Elijah will indeed come and restore all things; but I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him but did to him whatever they pleased. So also will the Son of Man suffer at their hands." Then the disciples understood that he was speaking to them of John the Baptist.*

But it is not Elijah who will resurrect and come to our earth. The Holy Spirit has revealed to Zechariah that the child who will be born of him will be filled with the Holy Spirit from the womb of the mother. The Spirit of the Lord who rests on him it will be manifested through him with the same strength and power with which He manifested himself in Elijah. According to this revelation it is not Elijah who returns to our earth. Instead, it is the Spirit of the Lord who will manifest himself in John with that strength and energy with which He manifested himself in this prophet. Since the return of Elijah in flesh and blood was expected, the Pharisees and scribes did not welcome him, nor they did not undergo his baptism, nor did they convert with a sincere heart and rich in faith. In addition, instigated by Herodias, Herod had him beheaded. The same fate will also be reserved for Jesus. He will not be welcomed as the Lord’s Messiah and will be subjected to every spiritual and then physical torture and everything will end with his crucifixion and death. We too can fall into the same sin today. We can interpret the Gospel starting from our heart and give it meanings never thought of, never wanted by the Holy Spirit. We will always give meanings from the flesh when we are not in full obedience to the Commandments. In sin, everything is read from falseness and lies. Whoever wants to give truth to the Gospel is obliged to live without sin, leading a life of obedience to the Word.

Mother of Redemtion, Angels and Saints, make that us live Word by Word.