**I am the voice of one crying out in the desert**

**SUNDAY DICEMBER 13 (Jn 1,6-8.19-28)**

John the Baptist is not the Christ, he is not Elijah, he is not the Prophet who is to come. Who is he then? He responds by appealing to Isaiah’s prophecy: “*Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service is at an end, her guilt is expiated; Indeed, she has received from the hand of the LORD double for all her sins. A voice cries out: In the desert prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low; The rugged land shall be made a plain, the rough country, a broad valley. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all mankind shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken. A voice says, “Cry out!” I answer, “What shall I cry out?” “All mankind is grass, and all their glory like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower wilts, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it. (So then, the people is the grass.) Though the grass withers and the flower wilts, the word of our God stands forever.” Go up onto a high mountain, Zion, herald of glad tidings; Cry out at the top of your voice, Jerusalem, herald of good news! Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah: Here is your God! Here comes with power the Lord GOD, who rules by his strong arm; Here is his reward with him, his recompense before him. Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, Carrying them in his bosom, and leading the ewes with care.” (Is 40,1-11).* The Lord is about to come. The way must be prepared for him so that he can enter every heart. The way is prepared through a true conversion to his Word. Without true conversion there is no way through which the Lord can enter the heart and bring his salvation into it. We must all be convinced of this truth. God will never be able to dwell in a heart in which sin reigns, darkness dwells, lies, falsity and wickedness rules. The Lord is truth, light, charity, mercy and eternal love. Never will it be able to share the space given to the heart so that everything that is contrary to its eternal essence can enter it. This was valid for yesterday, for today and for forever.

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

With his answer, John the Baptist obliges every disciple of Jesus to know himself with all wisdom, truth, doctrine, light of the Holy Spirit. Only those who possess true self-knowledge will be able to open up to the knowledge of others. This obligation is for all members of the body of Christ: pope, bishop, presbyter, deacon, confirmed, baptized. From the false science and knowledge of oneself one always comes to the false science and knowledge of every other man. Today this is the true evil that reigns in the Church: the non-knowledge of oneself in the Holy Spirit which necessarily leads to the non-knowledge of others. This ignorance leads to working from untruth and lies. When we do not know each other, it is a sign that the Spirit of the Lord does not dwell in us. John is full of the Holy Spirit and knows who he is: “Voice of one crying out in the desert, “Make straight the way of the Lord.” He is not Elijah, he is not the Christ, he is not the Prophet.

Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints, make that everyone know themselves in the Holy Spirit.