**Do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home**

**FRIDAY DICEMBER 18 (Mt 1,18-24)**

The mystery of a life can only be known by revelation. It is urgent to say that revelation did not begin after the sin of Eve and Adam in the Garden of Eden, but immediately, immediately after their creation: “*Then God said: “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and the cattle, and over all the wild animals and all the creatures that crawl on the ground." God created man in his image; in the divine image he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them, saying: "Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that move on the earth." (Gen 1,26-28). The LORD God gave man this order: "You are free to eat from any of the trees of the gardenexcept the tree of knowledge of good and bad. From that tree you shall not eat; the moment you eat from it you are surely doomed to die."(Gen 2,16-17* *The LORD God said: "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a suitable partner for him." So the LORD God formed out of the ground various wild animals and various birds of the air, and he brought them to the man to see what he would call them; whatever the man called each of them would be its name.The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of the air, and all the wild animals; but none proved to be the suitable partner for the man.So the LORD God cast a deep sleep on the man, and while he was asleep, he took out one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.The LORD God then built up into a woman the rib that he had taken from the man. When he brought her to the man, the man said: "This one, at last, is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; This one shall be called 'woman,' for out of 'her man' this one has been taken." That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one body. (Cfr. Gen 2,18-24).* Man’s life is not left to man’s rationality, wisdom, intelligence. It is all governed by revelation.

*Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the holy Spirit.Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly.Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her.She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means "God is with us."When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.*

What is written in the Book of Proverbs – Without prophecy the people become demoralized (Pr 29,18) – we can thus paraphrase it: “*When there is no revelation there is no knowledge of the mystery that the Lord wants to bring about through our life ".* The Lord comes, manifests the mystery, and asks that it is done according to his manifested will. In obedience one enters the mystery and becomes part of it. Having become part of the mystery, not only is true salvation accomplished for our life, but we become instruments of life for the whole world. Today everything is reduced to a literary genre. Nothing is more false than such a teaching. The imagination can never become the history of salvation, which is only in the knowledge of the Lord’s will revealed, manifested, known, lived with full obedience. Joseph needed the word of revelation. Zacharias and Elizabeth also needed it and so did the Virgin Mary. The Apostles are sent into the world to reveal the mystery, proclaiming it, teaching it, explaining it, making those who believe in their word become part of this mystery, his life. This is the true charity of the Apostles and of those who are constituted as Ministers of the Word in hierarchical communion with them: to give every man the knowledge of the mystery, announcing it with the Word and showing it fulfilled in their life. Joseph receives the mystery, welcomes it, makes it his life with immediate obedience. Because of this obedience, Jesus is not only the Son of Abraham, he also becomes the Son of David. The Lord, according to his promise to David, will be able to make him his Messiah, his Christ. He will be the King of the eternal kingdom.

Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints, make that the revelation is light for all of us.