**What, then, will this child be?**

**WEDNESDAY DICEMBER 23 (Lk 1,57-66)**

All God’s works are visible and mysterious at the same time. We see the hand of the Lord acting, but the mystery that is in a life often escapes our eyes. Sacred Scripture is also this mystery. For some people their story is beyond what is humanly conceivable or imaginable. This is attested by the way it unfolds. Who could have ever imagined that a child saved from the Nile would become the liberator and savior of his people tomorrow? Yet the signs of the mystery are evident: “*Now a certain man of the house of Levi married a Levite woman, who conceived and bore a son. Seeing that he was a goodly child, she hid him for three months. When she could hide him no longer, she took a papyrus basket, daubed it with bitumen and pitch, and putting the child in it, placed it among the reeds on the river bank. His sister stationed herself at a distance to find out what would happen to him. Pharaoh's daughter came down to the river to bathe, while her maids walked along the river bank. Noticing the basket among the reeds, she sent her handmaid to fetch it. On opening it, she looked, and lo, there was a baby boy, crying! She was moved with pity for him and said, "It is one of the Hebrews' children." Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call one of the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" "Yes, do so," she answered. So the maiden went and called the child's own mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will repay you." The woman therefore took the child and nursed it. When the child grew, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, who adopted him as her son and called him Moses; for she said, "I drew him out of the water.”* (Ex 2,1-10)*.* There are many events that attest to the Lord’s action in man’s life. Since the sign does not reveal the mystery, we must wait for it to be fulfilled. But even then, we cannot know it according to purity of truth without the help of the Holy Spirit. The mystery is known only by revelation that comes from above.

*When the time arrived for Elizabeth to have her child she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy toward her, and they rejoiced with her. When they came on the eighth day to circumcise the child, they were going to call him Zechariah after his father, but his mother said in reply, "No. He will be called John." But they answered her, "There is no one among your relatives who has this name." So they made signs, asking his father what he wished him to be called. He asked for a tablet and wrote, "John is his name," and all were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened, his tongue freed, and he spoke blessing God. Then fear came upon all their neighbors, and all these matters were discussed throughout the hill country of Judea. All who heard these things took them to heart, saying, "What, then, will this child be?" For surely the hand of the Lord was with him.*

Those who have come into contact with the events concerning the son of Zechariah and Elizabeth, note that the event is outside what commonly happens in other families, starting from the advanced age in which conception took place. If others are added to this event, then the conclusion can only be one: Here is the finger of God. Here the hand of the Lord operates. Today these eyes are missing from many Christians. We can no longer see God working in our history. This is the poverty of all poverties because it leads to the loss of true faith. A Christian who does not see God in history attests that his heart is not pure. If it was pure he would see the Lord, because it is proper of the pure of heart to see God at work in history. Not seeing God, we cannot even make decisions according to God’s will. One is blind when he acts, advises, and walk as a blind. As a blind person, one can never be creators of true hope. There is a danger that we can fall into the loss of faith, surrendering ourselves to the prince of the world. Pride blinds. Science swells with pride. In simplicity and smallness, on the other hand, we see the signs of God’s presence.

Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints, make us meek and humble of heart in Christ Jesus.