**Rachel weeping for her children**

**MONDAY DICEMBER 28 (Mt 2,13-18)**

The prophecy of Jeremiah, quoted by the Evangelist Matthew, is the key to reading and understanding the slaughter of innocent children carried out by the wicked King Herod. The Lord through his prophet reveals to his people that he is the creator of true hope, because he is the creator of the salvation of his people. With him and for him no innocent blood is shed in vain. All innocent blood is the seed of salvation for the many. That shed by innocent children is true innocent and creative blood in the world of salvation, because it was shed for Christ. It is true blood of Christ Jesus.

*At that time, says the LORD, I will be the God of all the tribes of Israel, and they shall be my people. Thus says the LORD: The people that escaped the sword have found favor in the desert. As Israel comes forward to be given his rest, the LORD appears to him from afar: With age-old love I have loved you; so I have kept my mercy toward you. Again I will restore you, and you shall be rebuilt, O virgin Israel; Carrying your festive tambourines, you shall go forth dancing with the merrymakers. Again you shall plant vineyards on the mountains of Samaria; those who plant them shall enjoy the fruits. Yes, a day will come when the watchmen will call out on Mount Ephraim: "Rise up, let us go to Zion, to the LORD, our God." For thus says the LORD: Shout with joy for Jacob, exult at the head of the nations; proclaim your praise and say: The LORD has delivered his people, the remnant of Israel. Behold, I will bring them back from the land of the north; I will gather them from the ends of the world, with the blind and the lame in their midst, The mothers and those with child; they shall return as an immense throng. They departed in tears, but I will console them and guide them; I will lead them to brooks of water, on a level road, so that none shall stumble. For I am a father to Israel, Ephraim is my first-born.*

*Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, proclaim it on distant coasts, and say: He who scattered Israel, now gathers them together, he guards them as a shepherd his flock. The LORD shall ransom Jacob, he shall redeem him from the hand of his conqueror. Shouting, they shall mount the heights of Zion, they shall come streaming to the LORD'S blessings: The grain, the wine, and the oil, the sheep and the oxen; They themselves shall be like watered gardens, never again shall they languish. Then the virgins shall make merry and dance, and young men and old as well. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will console and gladden them after their sorrows. I will lavish choice portions upon the priests, and my people shall be filled with my blessings, says the LORD. Thus says the LORD: In Ramah is heard the sound of moaning, of bitter weeping! Rachel mourns her children, she refuses to be consoled because her children are no more. Thus says the LORD: Cease your cries of mourning, wipe the tears from your eyes. The sorrow you have shown shall have its reward, says the LORD, they shall return from the enemy's land. There is hope for your future, says the LORD; your sons shall return to their own borders (Jer 31,1-17).* There is a reward for this innocent blood. Compensation is the salvation of many, because it is the true blood of Christ the Lord. Whoever adds blood to the blood of Christ brings salvation to the world.

*When they had departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him." Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt. He stayed there until the death of Herod, that what the Lord had said through the prophet might be fulfilled, "Out of Egypt I called my son." When Herod realized that he had been deceived by the magi, he became furious. He ordered the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had ascertained from the magi. Then was fulfilled what had been said through Jeremiah the prophet: "A voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation; Rachel weeping for her children, and she would not be consoled, since they were no more."*

In the face of every pain, every suffering, every slaughter of innocents, every unjust death, either we allow ourselves to be enlightened by the words of revelation, or the pain will consume our life, but without bearing any fruit of salvation. This is why everything must be lived by faith, in the faith that becomes more and more true in us. Today, lacking faith in the hearts of many, we deprive ourselves of the same life by considering pain useless suffering.

Mother of the Redemption, Angels, Saints, free Christians from so much foolishness and blindness.