**Isn't this the carpenter's son?**

**SATURDAY MAY 1 (Mt 13, 54-58)**

The Lord God before making man in his image, had created a garden of delights for him. The whole earth spontaneously gave him nourishment: *"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." Also God said: "See, I give you every seed-bearing plant all over the earth and every tree That has seed-bearing fruit on it to be your food; " (cfr. Gen 1, 26-31).*The same truth it is affirmed in the second chapter of Genesis: *"the LORD God formed man out of the clay of the ground and blew into His nostrils the breath of life, and so man Became a living being. Then the LORD God planted a garden in Eden; the east, and he placed there the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the LORD God made various trees grow that were delightful to look at and good for food, with the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and bad.  A river rises in Eden to water the garden; beyond there it divides and becomes four branches. The LORD God then took the man and settled him in the garden of Eden, to cultivate and care for it. The LORD God gave man this order: "You are free to eat from any of the trees of the garden except 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.” (Cfr. Gen 2, 4-18)*What it was the work for man?

Work used to be a game. As God played with wisdom in the creation of the universe, so he would have liked to play with man in the care and cultivation of the earth: *"The LORD begot me, the first-born of his ways, the forerunner of his prodigies of long ago; From of old I was poured forth, at the first, before the earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no fountains or springs of water; Before the mountains were settled into place, before the hills, I was brought forth; While as yet the earth and the fields were not made, nor the first clods of the world. "When he established the heavens I was there, when he marked out the vault over the face of the deep; When he made firm the skies above, when he fixed fast the foundations of the earth; When he set for the sea its limit, so that the waters should not transgress his command; Then was I beside him as his craftsman, and I was his delight day by day, Playing before him all the while, playing on the surface of his earth; and I found delight in the sons of men. "(Pr 8,22-31).*But then came disobedience. Man did not recognize God as his Lord, the earth did not recognize and does not recognize man as his Lord, for whom it must produce its fruits. The Lord God took this obedience from the earth: *“To the man he said:" Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree of which I had forbidden you to eat, "Cursed be the ground because of you! In toil shall you eat its yield all the days of your life. Thorns and thistles shall it bring forth to you, as you eat of the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face shall you get bread to eat, Until you return to the ground, from which you were taken; For you are dirt, and to dirt you shall return. " (Gen 3, 17-19).*If man wants to reap the fruits of the earth, he must sprinkle it with his sweat. He must pour his blood, his breath of life on it.

*He came to his native place and taught the people in their synagogue. They were astonished and said, "Where did this man get such wisdom and mighty deeds? Is he not the carpenter's son? Is not his mother named Mary and his brothers James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas? Are not his sisters all with us ? Where did this man get all this? " And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and in his own house." And he did not work many mighty deeds there because of their lack of faith.*

Joseph, the Guardian of the Redeemer and of the Virgin Mary, his bride, must also reap the fruits of the earth by exercising the hard work of the carpenter. Work, carried out as obedience to God and the suffering it produces, becomes a true way, a true sacrifice for the atonement of our sins and an instrument of redemption for our brothers.

Mother of the Redemption, Angels, Saints, let us live work as a true holocaust.