**MONDAY APRIL 04 – FIFTH WEEK OF LENT [C]**

**Jesus answered and said to them, "Even if I do testify on my own behalf, my testimony can be verified, because I know where I came from and where I am going. But you do not know where I come from or where I am going. You judge by appearances, but I do not judge anyone.**

**The Jews, in judging according to flesh, judge by arrogance and by envy, by every vice and sin governing their heart and moving their will. Judging by flesh is judging by foolishness, by ignorance, by the great spiritual blindness surrounding their life. However, it is a guilty blindness, since they refuse the light Christ Jesus is offering them. This truth is thus revealed by Jesus in the episode of the man blind from birth healed by Jesus: “As he passed by he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him. We have to do the works of the one who sent me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his eyes, and said to him, "Go wash in the Pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed, and came back able to see.” (Jn 9, 1-7)**

**With this great miracle the Pharisees they could have converted, if they had not challenged the know truth. Not being able to oppose to the historical evidence, they accuse of sin the blind man, by then seeing man and throw them out:** “**When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered and said, "Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "I do believe, Lord," and he worshiped him. Then Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see might see, and those who do see might become blind." Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not also blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you are saying, 'We see,' so your sin remains.” (Jn 9, 35-41) Here is why the blindness of the Pharisees is guilty. Through this miracle, Jesus has given them every grace so that they could repent. Instead, they have challenged the historical truth and their blindness was aggravated by another heavy sin.**

**Always speaking about the scribes and the Pharisees, Jesus has called them blind. Not only. They are blind and guides of blind men:** “**Then his disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" He said in reply, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides (of the blind). If a blind person leads a blind person, both will fall into a pit." (Mt 15, 12-14) When one falls into blindness, one always judges according to flesh, namely by sin. But when judges by flesh, by sin, also the judgements one issues are by flesh, by sin. They might never be judgements of truth, light, justice, holiness. What is the judgement according to flesh that the scribes and the Pharisees issue against Jesus? The judgement of putting him to death. Indeed, Jesus was already condemned to death. One is just waiting for the favourable moment for his execution.**

**Let us read the text of Jn 8,12-20**

**Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." So the Pharisees said to him, "You testify on your own behalf, so your testimony cannot be verified." Jesus answered and said to them, "Even if I do testify on my own behalf, my testimony can be verified, because I know where I came from and where I am going. But you do not know where I come from or where I am going. You judge by appearances, but I do not judge anyone. And even if I should judge, my judgment is valid, because I am not alone, but it is I and the Father who sent me. Even in your law it is written that the testimony of two men can be verified. I testify on my behalf and so does the Father who sent me." So they said to him, "Where is your father?" Jesus answered, "You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also." He spoke these words while teaching in the treasury in the temple area. But no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come.**

**Whoever does not want to judge with judgements of sin, must put the fear of the Lord in his heart. He must have a strong faith and think that he, being judge instead of the Lord, might never issue a judgement of falsity, lie, deceit, fruit of his sin and of the spiritual blindness governing his heart and his mind. Tomorrow there is no possibility to stand before the judgement of God for those who has issued judgements of sin, as he is willingly blind, having refused every grace and every light offered to him by the Lord through many ways. If for every vain word, we will be judged, let us imagine what the judgement for the one who has issued judgements, fruit of his sin, will be, judgements, which have caused the spiritual death, eventually, often, also the physical death. The one who is blind neither sees God nor knows Him. The spiritual blindness comes to remove even the macro truths about our God. Everyone should know that sin makes blind. Whoever hands himself over to sin will inevitably become blind. Whoever has not guarded himself from sinning is responsible of every judgement of sin. Mother of God, help us.**