**SUNDAY 08 JANUARY 2023**

**BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

**The heavens were opened (for him), and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove (and) coming upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."**

**The Holy Spirit places himself over Christ Jesus visibly not only so that the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled. He placed himself over Jesus visibly and there He remains forever, for He has to lead Him though the perfect fulfilment of the mission that the Father has entrusted him. As the Holy Spirit and the Eternal Word assisted the Father in the work of the creation, so now the Holy Spirit must assist Jesus the Lord in the work of redemption of the humankind. Here is what the Book of Proverbs reveals about wisdom: "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).**

**Let us read the text of Mt 3,13-17**

**Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. John tried to prevent him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?" Jesus said to him in reply, "Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed him. After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened (for him), and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove (and) coming upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."**

**The Holy Spirit must set his dwelling in Christ Jesus. First, as Spirit of Christ Jesus, He must lead his body to its holiest sanctification. Then, as Spirit of every member of the body of Christ, He must carry out the attraction of every other man to Christ so that he becomes his body: “Wisdom sings her own praises, before her own people she proclaims her glory; In the assembly of the Most High she opens her mouth, in the presence of his hosts she declares her worth: "From the mouth of the Most High I came forth, and mistlike covered the earth. In the highest heavens did I dwell, my throne on a pillar of cloud. The vault of heaven I compassed alone, through the deep abyss I wandered. Over waves of the sea, over all the land, over every people and nation I held sway. Among all these I sought a resting place; in whose inheritance should I abide? "Then the Creator of all gave me his command, and he who formed me chose the spot for my tent, Saying, 'In Jacob make your dwelling, in Israel your inheritance.' Before all ages, in the beginning, he created me, and through all ages I shall not cease to be. In the holy tent I ministered before him, and in Zion I fixed my abode. Thus in the chosen city he has given me rest, in Jerusalem is my domain. I have struck root among the glorious people, in the portion of the LORD, his heritage. "Like a cedar on Lebanon I am raised aloft, like a cypress on Mount Hermon, Like a palm tree in En-gedi, like a rosebush in Jericho, Like a fair olive tree in the field, like a plane tree growing beside the water. Like cinnamon, or fragrant balm, or precious myrrh, I give forth perfume; Like galbanum and onycha and sweet spices, like the odor of incense in the holy place. I spread out my branches like a terebinth, my branches so bright and so graceful. I bud forth delights like the vine, my blossoms become fruit fair and rich. Come to me, all you that yearn for me, and be filled with my fruits; You will remember me as sweeter than honey, better to have than the honeycomb. He who eats of me will hunger still, he who drinks of me will thirst for more; He who obeys me will not be put to shame, he who serves me will never fail." (Sir 24.1-22). The Word, in the Holy Spirit, is made by the Father in the eternal today of God and is born of Him as true Son, through eternal generation. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, the Eternal Word is made true son of man in the womb of the Virgin Mary. Though the work of the Holy Spirit, the Incarnated Word fulfils the work of redemption. Through the Holy Spirit, the body of Christ that is the Church, fulfils the mission of salvation and of redemption in history. Every disciple of Jesus, if he wants to fulfil both the work of his sanctification and the work of conversion of his brothers, must perennially be moved and led by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ and of his body. One becomes true body of Christ, one fulfils the work of his own sanctification, one can fulfil the work of redemption. May the Mother of Jesus help us let ourselves be led by the Holy Spirit meekly.**