

## BE MERCIFUL O LORD, FOR WE HAVE SINNED...

*These words from Psalm 51 help us continue advancing on this Lenten journey, whose purpose is to achieve the renewal and transformation of our hearts through a process of conversion. So that in this way we may have a heart like the heart of Jesus.*

*Today's readings present us with a reality: how difficult it is to do good and how easy it is to fall into evil.*

*We have heard through St Matthew how Jesus is led into the desert by the Spirit of God to prepare himself to begin his public life and thus carry out the mission that our Father God had entrusted to him. In other words, Jesus exercises himself spiritually through fasting and prayer.*

*However, there is a figure who intervenes to try to prevent Jesus from fulfilling the will of our Heavenly Father; that figure is the devil.*

*And he subtly presents himself to Jesus through temptations.*

*The temptations Jesus faced, we can also affirm that they are the same temptations Adam and Eve faced, as narrated in the Book of Genesis.*

*The first temptation is GLUTTONY when the enemy invites them to eat the forbidden fruit; it is the same temptation Jesus faces when the enemy says to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become bread." It represents the temptation of PLEASURE.*

*The second temptation is PRIDE. The evil one tells Adam and Eve that if they eat the forbidden fruit, they will be like gods. While Jesus is told to throw himself down, it is written that his angels will watch over him so that he will not stumble; this is the temptation of POWER.*

*Finally, the third temptation is GREED. The evil one suggested to our first parents that they would know good and evil; and to Jesus he said, "Bow down before me, and I will give you all the kingdoms of the earth." This is the temptation of POSSESSING.*

*To achieve his purpose, the devil first makes us suspect God's love, doubt Him; confuse us through deception, and, like our first parents, turn away from friendship with God.*

*Often the temptation is not to do something wrong, but to turn away from good, solely for comfort and to seek ourselves.*

*In conclusion, our Christian life is a constant spiritual battle, in which we will face the struggle against temptations, which we can overcome by practicing prayer, living in grace, and always trusting in God and His love for us. Only in this way will we persevere in fulfilling God's will.*

*As the Apostle Paul said in his letter to the Romans 12:21: Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

*We entrust ourselves to Mary Most Holy; may her intercession help us to overcome every temptation in our lives. Amen.*