# Thursday of the Third Week of Lent

**Gospel text (*Lk* 11:14-23):** Jesus was driving out a demon that was mute, and when the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke and the crowds were amazed. Some of them said, “By the power of Beelzebul, the prince of demons, he drives out demons.” Others, to test him, asked him for a sign from heaven. But he knew their thoughts and said to them, "(…) If I, then, drive out demons by Beelzebul, (…) , then the Kingdom of God has come upon you (…)."

***Christ’s action through the Holy Spirit preserves us from evil***

EDITORIAL TEAM evangeli.net (based on texts by Benedict XVI)
*(Città del Vaticano, Vatican)*

Today, we consider that Christ, in His action, accomplished with the Holy Spirit, becomes physically present among us and preserves us from evil. It is incongruous that the demon casts out demons! Let us have some common sense: it is Christ who —by the "finger" of God— casts out demons!

The preaching of the Kingdom is an "event": God’s Word in Person. This preaching is at the same time a struggle with the powers of evil. The ancient world actually experiences the irruption of the Christian faith as liberation from fear of demons that, in spite of skepticism and enlightenment, was all-pervasive at that time. For us there is but one God, the Father and one Lord, Jesus Christ (cf. 1Cor 8:4): these words imply a great liberating power, the great exorcism that purifies the world. No matter how many "gods" may fluctuate in the world, only one is God and Lord!

—Through Jesus Christ, God has entered into history in a wholly new way: we live, in a unique way, the time of conversion and penance, as well as the time of joy.