***And I consecrate myself for them***

**WEDNESDAY MAY 19 (Jn 17,11-19)**

The consecration in the Scripture is the full gift of the entire victim made to the Lord. The peak of the consecration took place in the holocaust. The victim was all burned in honor of the Lord: *"The LORD said to Moses, " Give Aaron and his sons the following command: This is the ritual for holocausts. The holocaust is to remain on the hearth of the altar all night until the next morning, and the fire is to be kept burning on the altar. The priest, clothed in his linen robe and wearing linen drawers on his body, shall take away the ashes to which the fire has reduced the holocaust on the altar, and lay them at the side of the altar. Then, having taken off these garments and put on other garments, he shall carry the ashes to a clean place outside the camp. The fire on the altar is to be kept burning; it must not go out. Every morning the priest shall put firewood on it. On this he shall lay out the holocaust and burn the fat of the peace offerings. The fire is to be kept burning continuously on the altar; it must not go out." (Lev 6, 1-6).* Jesus consecrated his whole life in obedience to the Father. The Father told him to lay down his life for his disciples and he dedicated himself entirely to their service. Nothing was spared. Night and day he watched and guarded his disciples so that they were not lost. Only one has been lost: the son of perdition, but by his own choice. The consecration is of Jesus. The will belongs to men. If they want.

This consecration of Jesus for those that the Father has given him must be the consecration of each of his Apostles. Here is how the Apostle Paul lives totally consecrated to his ministry: *“We cause no one to stumble in anything, in order that no fault may be found with our ministry; on the contrary, in everything we commend ourselves as ministers of God, through much endurance, in afflictions, hardships, constraints, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, vigils, fasts; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, in a holy spirit, in unfeigned love, in truthful speech, in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness at the right and at the left; through glory and dishonor, insult and praise. We are treated as deceivers and yet are truthful; as unrecognized and yet acknowledged; as dying and behold we live; as chastised and yet not put to death; as sorrowful yet always rejoicing; as poor yet enriching many; as having nothing and yet possessing all things. (2Cor 6, 3-10)*. And again: “ *Five times at the hands of the Jews I received forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I passed a night and a day on the deep; on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my own race, dangers from Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers at sea, dangers among false brothers; in toil and hardship, through many sleepless nights, through hunger and thirst, through frequent fastings, through cold and exposure. Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is led to sin, and I am not indignant? "*(2Cor 11, 24-29). Life truly consecrated to Christ.

*And now I will no longer be in the world, but they are in the world, while I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one just as we are. When I was with them I protected them in your name that you gave me, and I guarded them, and none of them was lost except the son of destruction, in order that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you. I speak this in the world so that they may share my joy completely. I gave them your word, and the world hated them, because they do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world but that you keep them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. Consecrate them in the truth. Your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I sent them into the world. And I consecrate myself for them, so that they also may be consecrated in truth.*

The body of Christ is not built by working hourly in the field of the Church. Either we are consumed entirely for the body of Christ, or we will always reap little fruit.

Mother of the Redemption, Angels, Saints, let us consecrate ourselves entirely to Christ.