**11 JUNE – MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS**

**But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs, but one soldier thrust his lance into his side, and immediately blood and water flowed out.**

**In the Gospel offered today to our meditation, reflection, contemplation – in every word of the Gospel the mystery of Christ Jesus is enclosed and before the mystery one must always bow down in spirit of adoration and contemplation – there is the fulfilment of the prophecies. The first one is contained in the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel, the second one in the Book of Exodus, the third one is written in the Book of Zachariah.**

**Jesus’s heart is the eternal source, which the river of life springs from – the Holy Spirit and grace – that must enliven everything that is dead on our earth and everything on our earth is dried and dead.**

**“Then he brought me back to the entrance of the temple, and I saw water flowing out from beneath the threshold of the temple toward the east, for the facade of the temple was toward the east; the water flowed down from the southern side of the temple, south of the altar. He led me outside by the north gate, and around to the outer gate facing the east, where I saw water trickling from the southern side. Then when he had walked off to the east with a measuring cord in his hand, he measured off a thousand cubits and had me wade through the water, which was ankle-deep. He measured off another thousand and once more had me wade through the water, which was now knee-deep. Again he measured off a thousand and had me wade; the water was up to my waist. Once more he measured off a thousand, but there was now a river through which I could not wade; for the water had risen so high it had become a river that could not be crossed except by swimming. He asked me, "Have you seen this, son of man?"**

**Then he brought me to the bank of the river, where he had me sit. Along the bank of the river I saw very many trees on both sides. He said to me, "This water flows into the eastern district down upon the Arabah, and empties into the sea, the salt waters, which it makes fresh. Wherever the river flows, every sort of living creature that can multiply shall live, and there shall be abundant fish, for wherever this water comes the sea shall be made fresh. Fishermen shall be standing along it from En-gedi to En-eglaim, spreading their nets there. Its kinds of fish shall be like those of the Great Sea, very numerous. Only its marshes and swamps shall not be made fresh; they shall be left for salt. Along both banks of the river, fruit trees of every kind shall grow; their leaves shall not fade, nor their fruit fail. Every month they shall bear fresh fruit, for they shall be watered by the flow from the sanctuary. Their fruit shall serve for food, and their leaves for medicine." (Ez 47, 1-12)**

**Jesus is the true Lamb of Easter. His blood frees us from death. His flesh gives every force to make the journey toward the blessed eternity. He is true manna letting us to get through the desert without succumbing in it. Jesus is also the silent Lamb facing his shearers. The Lamb who is the Suffering Servant of the Lord, The One holding the sins of the world on him to atone them on our behalf, in our stead. Here is the Lamb of God taking away the sin from the world: The LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "These are the regulations for the Passover. No foreigner may partake of it. However, any slave who has been bought for money may partake of it, provided you have first circumcised him. But no transient alien or hired servant may partake of it. It must be eaten in one and the same house; you may not take any of its flesh outside the house. You shall not break any of its bones. The whole community of Israel must keep this feast. If any aliens living among you wish to celebrate the Passover of the LORD, all the males among them must first be circumcised, and then they may join in its observance just like the natives. But no man who is uncircumcised may partake of it. The law shall be the same for the resident alien as for the native." All the Israelites did just as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron. (Ex 12, 43-50) “He was spurned and avoided by men, a man of suffering, accustomed to infirmity, One of those from whom men hide their faces, spurned, and we held him in no esteem. Yet it was our infirmities that he bore, our sufferings that he endured, While we thought of him as stricken, as one smitten by God and afflicted. But he was pierced for our offenses, crushed for our sins, Upon him was the chastisement that makes us whole, by his stripes we were healed. We had all gone astray like sheep, each following his own way; But the LORD laid upon him the guilt of us all. Though he was harshly treated, he submitted and opened not his mouth; Like a lamb led to the slaughter or a sheep before the shearers, he was silent and opened not his mouth.” (Is 53, 3-7)**

**Jesus is the Pierced, the Crucified, toward whom we must turn our eyes: “On that day, the LORD will shield the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and the weakling among them shall be like David on that day, and the house of David godlike, like an angel of the LORD before them. On that day I will seek the destruction of all nations that come against Jerusalem. I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and petition; and they shall look on him whom they have thrust through, and they shall mourn for him as one mourns for an only son, and they shall grieve over him as one grieves over a first-born.”(Zac 12, 8-10) The disciple of Jesus must never take his eyes away from Christ Crucified: “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us and persevere in running the race that lies before us while keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the leader and perfecter of faith. For the sake of the joy that lay before him he endured the cross, despising its shame, and has taken his seat at the right of the throne of God. Consider how he endured such opposition from sinners, in order that you may not grow weary and lose heart. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood.” (Heb 12, 1-4) As soon as he stops keeping his eyes toward Jesus Crucified, they are suddenly turned toward the world and conquered, enslaved, imprisoned by it in its coils of sin and death. Christ Crucified is our eternal salvation.**

**Let us read the text of Jn 19,31-37**

**Now since it was preparation day, in order that the bodies might not remain on the cross on the sabbath, for the sabbath day of that week was a solemn one, the Jews asked Pilate that their legs be broken and they be taken down. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and then of the other one who was crucified with Jesus. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs, but one soldier thrust his lance into his side, and immediately blood and water flowed out. An eyewitness has testified, and his testimony is true; he knows that he is speaking the truth, so that you also may (come to) believe. For this happened so that the scripture passage might be fulfilled: "Not a bone of it will be broken." And again another passage says: "They will look upon him whom they have pierced."**

**Today the Christian is ashamed of confessing that Christ Crucified is the only way of true salvation prepared for us by the Lord our God. He is ashamed of shouting to the world that Christ Jesus is the Eternal Word made flesh to bring truth, grace, light, justice, eternal life on earth. He is ashamed of preaching that no other name has been given in which it is established that we can be saved. He is ashamed of remembering that it is from his pierced heart that the Spirit and the grace will perpetually spring for our eternal redemption, redemption of all men and not only of a few ones.**

**A Christian who is ashamed of Christ and of Christ Crucified, of the Lamb of God taking away the sin is the greatest enemy of men. He is the greatest enemy since he condemns the humankind to death. He knows the way through which life descends upon earth and hides it to men. There is no greater crime against humanity than this one: hiding to men the way of true life, of true salvation.**

**Mother of God, let us never be ashamed of your Son. Obtain for us the strength of announcing him with every frankness and freedom. Amen.**