**13 JUNE – XI SUNDAY O.T. [B]**

**With many such parables he spoke the word to them as they were able to understand it. Without parables he did not speak to them, but to his own disciples he explained everything in private.**

**The parables of the Old Testament are all the signs that the Lord has operated in favour of his people. Why are these signs called parables? So that they may be understood and accepted as true signs of God only through faith. Without faith, the signs of God remain only works that do not help a greater faith in the Lord our God mature. Instead, read them in faith, the signs lead to a perfect, mature faith, able to make us live our life in every situation of the history.**

**“Give ear, O my people, to my law: incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old: Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done. For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children: That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments: And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation; a generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not stedfast with God.**

**The children of Ephraim, being armed, and carrying****bows, turned back in the day of battle. They kept not the covenant of God, and refused to walk in his law; And forgat his works, and his wonders that he had shewed them. Marvellous things did he in the sight of their fathers, in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan. He divided the sea, and caused them to pass through; and he made the waters to stand as an heap. In the daytime also he led them with a cloud, and all the night with a light of fire. He clave the rocks in the wilderness, and gave them drink as out of the great depths. He brought streams also out of the rock, and caused waters to run down like rivers. And they sinned yet more against him by provoking the most High in the wilderness. And they tempted God in their heart by asking meat for their lust. Yea, they spake against God; they said, Can God furnish****a table in the wilderness?” (Psal 78, 1-20)**

**Jesus, too, used to speak to his people through the parables of signs. But they understood little, since they did not read the signs of Jesus with true, pure, saint faith. Here is how Jesus himself attests this truth to his people: “The next day, the crowd that remained across the sea saw that there had been only one boat there, and that Jesus had not gone along with his disciples in the boat, but only his disciples had left. Other boats came from Tiberias near the place where they had eaten the bread when the Lord gave thanks. When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into boats and came to Capernaum looking for Jesus. And when they found him across the sea they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you get here?" Jesus answered them and said, "Amen, amen, I say to you, you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate the loaves and were filled. Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him the Father, God, has set his seal." So they said to him, "What can we do to accomplish the works of God?" Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in the one he sent." So they said to him, "What sign can you do, that we may see and believe in you? What can you do? Our ancestors ate manna in the desert, as it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" So Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave the bread from heaven; my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." (Jn 6, 22-33)**

**Wonderful parable is the sign of the multiplication of loaves. But people understood nothing of the truth contained in it. It was read with heart not of faith, with mind not opened to the revelation, with intelligence incapable of seeing in Christ Jesus the true prophet sent by God to reveal them the true way of life. All the signs, the miracles, the wonders of Jesus are parables. But people did not manage to read them according to truth; even Caiaphas, because of these parables, decided the death of Christ the Lord: “So the chief priests and the Pharisees convened the Sanhedrin and said, "What are we going to do? This man is performing many signs. If we leave him alone, all will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our land and our nation." But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing, nor do you consider that it is better for you that one man should die instead of the people, so that the whole nation may not perish." He did not say this on his own, but since he was high priest for that year, he prophesied that Jesus was going to die for the nation, and not only for the nation, but also to gather into one the dispersed children of God. So from that day on they planned to kill him.(Jn 11, 47-53) Wonderful parables, Jesus’s miracles. The chiefs of the people refused to read them in the purity of truth. They considered them as a work of man, and not of the Only Begotten Son of the Father and condemned him to death by crucifixion. Yet, through these parables the people should have been converted. Instead, not only they remained insensible, they read them so bad to kill the Author of them.**

**Let us read the text of Mk 4, 26-34**

**He said,"This is how it is with the kingdom of God; it is as if a man were to scatter seed on the land and would sleep and rise night and day and the seed would sprout and grow, he knows not how. Of its own accord the land yields fruit, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the grain is ripe, he wields the sickle at once, for the harvest has come." He said, "To what shall we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable can we use for it? It is like a mustard seed that, when it is sown in the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on the earth. But once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the largest of plants and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the sky can dwell in its shade." With many such parables he spoke the word to them as they were able to understand it. Without parables, he did not speak to them, but to his own disciples he explained everything in private.**

**Not only does Jesus speak with the signs he accomplishes, he also speaks through the Word. The Word announced by Him is turned into parable. What is the difference between signs and parables? The signs are works already accomplished opening to faith if they are read with pure, true, perfect faith.**

**The parables are instead miracles that will always be accomplished if accepted and lived with true, pure, perfect faith. Is there a greater miracle than a Word that is sowed with faith in a heart and entrusted to the Holy Spirit so that it makes it spring up in that heart so that it bears much fruit? Is there a greater miracle than a mustard seed, the smallest among the seeds, that grows until becoming a great tree? Read with faith, parables infuse convincement and infinite certainty in the heart: “If I sow the Word of Christ Jesus, the true Word of Christ Jesus, the miracle will be accomplished”. It will not be accomplished by the work of the one who sows the Word. It will be accomplished so that the seed is taken by the Holy Spirit and it will always make it spring up so that it grows and bears much fruit.**

**The miracle is fulfilled for our faith. If we sow the seed in hearts with faith, drawing it from our heart full of faith and Holy Spirit, the sign will be fulfilled. Jesus the Lord grants this fulfilment. Jesus has already fulfilled the sign narrating the parable. Now it is up to us to add what it lacks in the parable for its realization in the history. We realize, fulfil what it lacks, and the sign will happen, the miracle will be done, the seed will grow, it will become a great tree.**

**Mother of God, help us read the parables of Jesus with true faith and to turn them into signs so that the world sees, believes, gives its life to the Gospel, so that it becomes in its heart a great tree of eternal life. Let us, oh Holy Mother, become operators of signs of true salvation. One just needs to add what it lacks in the parables of Jesus. Amen.**