**JUNE 20 – XII WEEK O.T. [B]**

**They woke him and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" He woke up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Quiet! Be still!" The wind ceased and there was great calm. Then he asked them, "Why are you terrified? Do you not yet have faith?"**

**It is right to offer an ecclesiological reflection to the passage of the Gospel offered in this Sunday for our attention. Knowing the Church is knowing Christ. Knowing Christ is knowing the Church. The Church is the body of Christ. Christ is the Head of his body. There is no Christ without the Church. There is no body without his Head. Christ Jesus is on the ship with his disciples. In the sea, there is a great upheaval. Waves are menacing. They cover the ship. When these upheavals happen, it is sign of a true judgement of God upon our history, our faith, our life as disciples of Christ the Lord.**

**The ship with Jesus in the sea of history is true figure, image of the Church. It, too, will be devastated. On it, too, the waves of heresies, schisms, contrapositions, divisions, sins, scandals of its children will come upon it. When these things happen, it is always for its purification and its return to the fullness of truth and charity. Sin disrupts. Charity gives peace. Sin destructs. Charity edifies and leads to the safe harbour of heaven.**

**In order that the upheaval does not damage the ship of the Church, Jesus must always be in it. Whether he wakes or sleeps, it has no importance. It is necessary, however, that he is on the ship. If He is on the ship, this will never drown.**

**If he is removed from it, there will no future of salvation for the ship. It will be swept by waves of man’s thoughts and will be immersed in their idolatry and impiety. How can we know if Christ is on our ship or out of it? He is on the ship if we are Church founded on Peter, if we walk with Peter, if Peter is on our ship, if we are on the ship where Peter is. If Peter is there, Jesus is there too. If Peter is absent, Jesus is absent too. The upheaval will not spare us. We are Church without Christ and He only has the authority to order the wind to retire, vanish. Who is in Christ Jesus? The only person that in the upheaval and in the storm of the history makes the Church always remain intact, not suffer any drowning, not break against any rock of heresy, impiety, idolatry, falsity, deceit of Satan, immorality. But he must always be on the ship, not out of it. He is on the ship if Peter too is on it. Peter and Christ Jesus must be one only presence. Never might they be divided.**

**Whoever divided Christ from Peter has not Christ on his ship, since Christ and Peter are one only ship, not two. There is no ship of Christ and that of Peter. There is the ship of Christ entrusted to Peter. The one which never drown is the ship of Peter, the other ships might even drown and they do, indeed. Without Christ, they are with no safety. When the sea gets upset, they remain upset. That of Peter, on the contrary, reaches the shores of Heaven. The mystery of Church is great and it is divine and we are part of it, we are its body, its life in the history and in eternity, on the earth and in eternal heaven. To the Lord, every day, should one ask the grace of loving the Church as He loves it and serving it as He serves it: with his crucified love. For this reason, He must give us his heart, his soul, his Spirit. Here is how great the love of Christ Jesus for his Church is: “Christ loved the church and handed himself over for her to sanctify her, cleansing her by the bath of water with the word, that he might present to himself the church in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.” (Ef 5, 25-27)**

**To love the Church as Christ Jesus loves it, we must love it with his heart in us. The Apostle Paul consumes his life for the Church, since He lives with the heart of Christ Jesus: “For through the law I died to the law, that I might live for God. I have been crucified with Christ; yet I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me; insofar as I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God who has loved me and given himself up for me.”(Gal 2, 19-20) The Holy Spirit must plant the heart of Christ Jesus in us with perennial daily work. One only day separated from the Holy Spirit and again flesh will bring our old heart in us and we will love the Church by sin. We can no longer love it by the heart of Christ, since the heart of Christ no longer rules our life.**

**LET US READ THE TEXT OF Mk 4,35-41**

**On that day, as evening drew on, he said to them, "Let us cross to the other side."Leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat just as he was. And other boats were with him. A violent squall came up and waves were breaking over the boat, so that it was already filling up. Jesus was in the stern, asleep on a cushion. They woke him and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" He woke up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Quiet! Be still!" The wind ceased and there was great calm. Then he asked them, "Why are you terrified? Do you not yet have faith?" They were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this whom even wind and sea obey?"**

**Let us reflect upon the words Christ addresses to the disciples: "Why are you terrified? Do you not yet have faith?" What is the faith the disciples do not still have? They have the faith that if they wake Christ Jesus and Christ Jesus orders the waves and the wind, everything will be over and there will be a great calm. They still lack of the faith that his presence on the ship is enough so that it has no damage. This faith is not in their heart, yet. They need to have the same faith as Christ Crucified. Jesus knows that the Father is with Him. He knows He is with the Father. If the Father has taken him in the middle of the stormy sea of the cross, certainly he has not taken to let him succumb forever. He has only taken him to prove his love, his piety, his obedience, his generosity in the gift of his life to the Father. All the storms lived for the Gospel are a proof for us.**

**Whoever is in the Holy Spirit always wonders: “Why is the Lord letting me pass through this stormy sea? Why is it upsetting me with these tumultuous waves? Why is my life passing through this sufferance today, this spiritual and also intense physical pain?” The answer is only one, if given by the Holy Spirit: “Because the Lord wants to prove my faithfulness, my love, my faith, how my obedience is ready, how much my will is solicitous in putting my life in his hands”. The Lord always proves the faith of every faithful in Christ Jesus.**

**Today the Christian is challenged. His life is immersed in the stormy and tumultuous sea of the thought of the world. Today, not only is the Christian waking Christ Jesus so that he comes and free us from this siege of the thought of the world. Moreover, he too is drinking these thoughts – that is salty water with the salt of perversion, of wickedness, of evilness, of every immorality – believing them just and holy and he even gives them so that other disciples of Jesus drink them. It is the total loss of faith. For each thought of the world we drink, we fall by proof. We do not reveal as true disciples of Jesus. We attest the Lord our God that the world may conquer us with great ease.**

**Who is the Christian today before the eyes of his Lord? A conquered by the world. The Apostle Paul has never fallen in one only proof. He is the conquered by Christ Jesus and remains the conquered for eternity: “It is not that I have already taken hold of it or have already attained perfect maturity, but I continue my pursuit in hope that I may possess it, since I have indeed been taken possession of by Christ (Jesus). Brothers, I for my part do not consider myself to have taken possession. Just one thing: forgetting what lies behind but straining forward to what lies ahead, I continue my pursuit toward the goal, the prize of God's upward calling, in Christ Jesus.” (Phil 3, 12-14)**

**Here is the purpose of every proof: attesting that the Christian is the Conquered by Christ Jesus and for eternity, he remains the Conquered. If he becomes the conquered by the world, he is no longer a Christian.**

**Mother of God, obtain for us the grace to overcome all the proof of our faith.**