**SATURDAY JUNE 26 – XII WEEK O.T. [B]**

**When it was evening, they brought him many who were possessed by demons, and he drove out the spirits by a word and cured all the sick, to fulfill what had been said by Isaiah the prophet: "He took away our infirmities and bore our diseases."**

**Jesus has just performed three miracles. He has cleansed a leper. He has healed the centurion’s servant. He has freed from fever the mother of Peter’s wife. After these three great signs and still other ones, the Holy Spirit reveals through the Evangelist Matthew that Jesus is the Servant of the Lord. In Him, the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled: “See, my servant shall prosper, he shall be raised high and greatly exalted. Even as many were amazed at him -  so marred was his look beyond that of man, and his appearance beyond that of mortals -  So shall he startle many nations, because of him kings shall stand speechless; For those who have not been told shall see, those who have not heard shall ponder it.**

**Who would believe what we have heard? To whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? He grew up like a sapling before him, like a shoot from the parched earth; There was in him no stately bearing to make us look at him, nor appearance that would attract us to him. 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. (Is, 52, 13-15 53, 1-6)**

**One truth is to be brought to light. Between the prophecy and its fulfilment there is a so great distance that overcomes the one existing between the heaven and the earth, the east and the west. The one who has taken our infirmities and has burdened himself of our illnesses is not a pure and simple servant. Neither is he a powerful, great man. Even if he were the greatest man in this world, he would be always and only a man. The one who has embraced our sufferance, the one who puts our suffering on his shoulders, who takes our sins on himself is the Only Begotten Son of the Father made flesh, become true man. God makes himself man to be able to take each of our cross upon him and turn it into eternal life, salvation, redemption, mystery of most great light for us. No man might turn death into life and cross into light. This wonder of salvation can be performed only by God Incarnated. Not God alone, since God cannot go up on the cross. He is most pure spirit. Not man alone. He is only flesh and, moreover, flesh needing purification, redemption, salvation, life, light, truth. The Son of God makes himself true man, he assumes a most pure flesh in the most holy womb of his Mother, takes sufferance, pains, sins, faults, punishment of the humankind upon himself and through the sacrifice of his body fulfils the expiation. So great is the love of God for us.**

**Let us read the text of Mt 8,5-17**

**When he entered Capernaum, a centurion approached him and appealed to him, saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, suffering dreadfully." He said to him, "I will come and cure him." The centurion said in reply, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof; only say the word and my servant will be healed. For I too am a person subject to authority, with soldiers subject to me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come here,' and he comes; and to my slave, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, "Amen, I say to you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith. I say to you, many will come from the east and the west, and will recline with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob at the banquet in the kingdom of heaven, but the children of the kingdom will be driven out into the outer darkness, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth." And Jesus said to the centurion, "You may go; as you have believed, let it be done for you." And at that very hour (his) servant was healed. Jesus entered the house of Peter, and saw his mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever. He touched her hand, the fever left her, and she rose and waited on him. When it was evening, they brought him many who were possessed by demons, and he drove out the spirits by a word and cured all the sick, to fulfil what had been said by Isaiah the prophet: "He took away our infirmities and bore our diseases."**

**Let us reflect. Today the centurion, figure of the world, shows up at Jesus with a most high profession of faith. He knows that through one only word Jesus can rule the entire universe. It is sufficient that He orders the fever and it will suddenly leave his servant. Who believes this about Jesus is the world. It is the world that comes and it is the world that manifests its faith, in the same way that another centurion, Cornelius, sends for Peter so that he announces a word of truth about Christ the Lord. It is the world, poor, actually, most poor of light, truth, eternal life, justice, holiness that comes and knocks at the heart of Christ the Lord. It is the Holy Spirit that prompts the world so that it approaches the most pure source of light and truth.**

**Today – shame among shames – what are we preaching? What are we teaching? What do we say, we who are disciples of Jesus, namely disciples of life, of light, of truth that made flesh for the salvation of every man through the way of the vicarious atonement? We are saying to the world that it does not need Christ Jesus. We are saying that it is an excellent thing that it remains in its darkness, in its death, in its sins, in its suffering, in its crosses without hope.**

**Someone may object: But we are not saying these things. We are saying that they can be saved without Christ, actually, that they are saved without any need neither of the faith in Christ and being subjected to Baptism in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. We are saying to them that we, first, rejected, betrayed, banned Christ from our mind and our heart and we are fine. We are saying that the faith in the unique God, without any specification of truth, doctrine, revelation or other is enough. Saying these things is condemning every man to darkness and death. It is enclosing him in the prison of his sins, of his pain, of his crosses and removing the key of the true hope. There is no true hope without Christ Jesus, since the true hope of salvation is Him, only Him.**

**Now let us reflect. If God in his Council and eternal Decree created man for Christ and in view of Christ, if Christ is the aim of man – not of this or that other man – if we remove Christ from man, we deprive man of his aim. But depriving man of his aim is depriving him of his truth as man and of his true realization. We condemn man to his non-realization, to his non-fulfilment. We condemn him to futility, to vanity, to non-sense. We condemn him to conquer vanity, but not to conquer himself letting himself be conquered by Christ.**

**Being of Christ Jesus is the eternal vocation of man. Christ Jesus is the principle and the foundation upon which man will have to be edified. Without Christ, man, even though he is edified vainly, crumbles as a sand dune in the desert. This is man without Christ: a pile of granules of sin, sufferance, pain, cross, silliness, ignorance taking even more shapes, but the substances remains unvaried. Without Christ, he is substance without any consistency of truth, light, justice, love. Here is what the Christian does with his silly and ignorant word: he condemns man to the non-consistency, to vanity, to silliness, to ignorance, to be a pile of granules of sand perennially remodelled by winds of sins and falsities. But since today the Christian does no longer believe in the sin and in the falsity, everything for him flows without any scruple of conscience because he has no conscience. Preaching vanity, we too have become vain beings. Mother of God, obtain for us the grace of a most pure faith in Christ Jesus.**