**TUESDAY JUNE 29 XIII WEEK O.T. [B]**

**SAINTS PETER AND PAUL – SOLEMNITY**

**And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."**

**Peter needs Paul and Paul needs Peter. Why does Peter need Paul and Paul need Peter? Paul needs Peter since it is He who has been constituted measure of truth by Christ Jesus. A truth about Jesus taught that does not enter in the measure that has been given to Peter to measure every truth, does not belong to the truth of Christ. Paul received a particular truth about the mystery of salvation and redemption by the Lord. He goes to Peter so that he verifies if that truth is conform to the measure with which every truth must be measured to establish if it belongs to Christ or it is stranger to him: “Now I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel preached by me is not of human origin. For I did not receive it from a human being, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ.  For you heard of my former way of life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it, and progressed in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries among my race, since I was even more a zealot for my ancestral traditions. But when (God), who from my mother's womb had set me apart and called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, so that I might proclaim him to the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; rather, I went into Arabia and then returned to Damascus.**

**Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to confer with Kephas and remained with him for fifteen days. But I did not see any other of the apostles, only James the brother of the Lord. (As to what I am writing to you, behold, before God, I am not lying.) Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia. And I was unknown personally to the churches of Judea that are in Christ; they only kept hearing that "the one who once was persecuting us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy." So they glorified God because of me.**

**Then after fourteen years I again went up to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along also. I went up in accord with a revelation, and I presented to them the gospel that I preach to the Gentiles - but privately to those of repute - so that I might not be running, or have run, in vain. Moreover, not even Titus, who was with me, although he was a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised, but because of the false brothers secretly brought in, who slipped in to spy on our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, that they might enslave us -  to them we did not submit even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might remain intact for you.**

**But from those who were reputed to be important (what they once were makes no difference to me; God shows no partiality) - those of repute made me add nothing. On the contrary, when they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter to the circumcised, for the one who worked in Peter for an apostolate to the circumcised worked also in me for the Gentiles, and when they recognized the grace bestowed upon me, James and Kephas and John, who were reputed to be pillars, gave me and Barnabas their right hands in partnership, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised. Only, we were to be mindful of the poor, which is the very thing I was eager to do.” (Gal 1,11-2,10).**

**Peter needs Paul, because Paul is the perfect model of how one should live and defend Christ and his Gospel in the world. Peter, too, needs to see and to hear how one has to live the Gospel, how one has to defend the faith, how one has to consecrate life to Christ and to the Gospel before every man. Peter is truth for the others. However, who shows Him how one has to live the Gospel? Without a vision and a clear, most pure word, one can fall from living the Gospel according to purity of truth and holiness: “And when Kephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face because he clearly was wrong. For, until some people came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he began to draw back and separated himself, because he was afraid of the circumcised. And the rest of the Jews (also) acted hypocritically along with him, with the result that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy. But when I saw that they were not on the right road in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Kephas in front of all, "If you, though a Jew, are living like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews?" We, who are Jews by nature and not sinners from among the Gentiles, (yet) who know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified. But if, in seeking to be justified in Christ, we ourselves are found to be sinners, is Christ then a minister of sin? Of course not! But if I am building up again those things that I tore down, then I show myself to be a transgressor. 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. I do not nullify the grace of God; for if justification comes through the law, then Christ died for nothing. (Gal 2,11-21). Peter and Paul eternally together. Neither Paul without Peter: he would lack of the measure of the true Christ and of the true Gospel. Nor Peter without Paul: he would lack of the true exemplarity and necessary fortitude to turn Christ and his truth into our life. The communion of Peter with Paul and of Paul with Peter is life of the Church, life of the entire body.**

**Let us read the text of Mt 16,13-19**

**When Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus said to him in reply, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."**

**Satan, knowing that everything is from the communion in the body of Christ, with tireless commitment, is always working to destruct the communion: communion between Peter and Apostles, communion between Apostles and Apostles, communion between Apostles and presbyters, communion between presbyters and presbyters, communion between presbyters and the herd of Christ the Lord. The weakness of the body of Christ is the breach of the communion. Satan applies the same principle that was applied by the politics of the Roman Empire: “Divide et Impera”. Divide and you will dominate. Satan is scared only about the communion, because in the communion everyone is endowed with the force and the truth of the other. If he manages to break communion, his government is perfect. Today it seems he is succeeding greatly. Yesterday he broke communion putting the ones in contrast and in opposition to the others. Today he breaks it putting the ones distant from the others and indifferent to them. Today Satan has created the spirit of autonomy and independence in the hearts. Perfect victory, his. Today and forever, the communion is our force. Today and forever, the breach of the communion is our weakness.**

**Mother of God, free us from the Evil that is conquering everybody. Amen.**