**WEDNESDAY JUNE 30 – XIII WEEK O.T. [B]**

**The swineherds ran away, and when they came to the town they reported everything, including what had happened to the demoniacs. Thereupon the whole town came out to meet Jesus, and when they saw him they begged him to leave their district.**

**Today Jesus enters the district of Gadarenes. Two demoniacs, who were so savage that no one could travel by that road, meet him and cry out, "What have you to do with us, Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the appointed time? If you drive us out, send us into the herd of swine." Jesus lets them go. They come out and enter the swine. The whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea where they drowned. The swineherds run away, they come to the town and report everything. The whole town come out to meet Jesus, and they beg him to leave their district. This is the fact according to the Evangelist Matthew. Now it is more than fair to offer some brief reflections to enter the mystery.**

**Devils know who Christ Jesus is: the Son of God. They know that He is the Lord, the God of Heaven and Earth, even though now He is the Son of God made flesh. They know their reign is permanently defeated, as soon as the mystery of his death and resurrection with the descent of the Holy Spirit is fulfilled. For this reason they say that He comes to torment them before the appointed time. Demons are spirits of the corrupted nature, nature always acting for the greatest evil of Christ Jesus. How can one, today, cause a harm to Christ Jesus and keep men under their slavery? Making the herd of swine being in that place drown. But they can nothing, without the Lord allowing them. Jesus allows it and the entire herd rush down the sea drowning. Their purpose is achieved: the entire village asks Christ Jesus to get away from the district. Now, let us ask: what are the truths that can help us enlighten the mystery that today is fulfilled and told through the event of the liberation of the demoniacs and the drowning of the swine?**

**The first truth reveals that Jesus is the Lord and nothing happens without Him wanting or allowing it. He allows the demons to enter the swine. By allowing it, he knows that those of the village would have expelled him from the district. Why does Jesus allow it knowing about his expulsion? One replies that Jesus does not operate neither to be accepted nor to be rejected. He operates to show every man that he is in his divine and eternal truth. He is the invisible God who made himself visible in the flesh. Showing his truth, every man is placed before his responsibility: accepting the invisible God made visible, or reject him. Jesus has received this Command by the Father and to this command, he will remain faithful for all his life. When Jesus brings Lazarus back to life, he knows that after that resurrection they would have condemned him to death. He did not shy away from the command of the Father. He brings Lazarus back to life and attests the entire world that, really, truly, He is from the Father:** “**So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay across it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the dead man's sister, said to him, "Lord, by now there will be a stench; he has been dead for four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus raised his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me; but because of the crowd here I have said this, that they may believe that you sent me." And when he had said this, he cried out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" (Jn 11, 38-43) Jesus always acts, operates, speaks, walks, goes from a place to another one to reveal his divine and eternal truth: He is God, the Son of God. He is from his Father. He came on our earth to manifest through his life all the eternal love of his Father.**

**Before the revelation of the truth of Christ Jesus, the answer of the man can be of acceptance or even of refusal. Man can ask Christ Jesus to get away from his district, but he can also choose to kill him, hanging him on a cross. But Jesus does not act taking man’s reaction into account, otherwise he should have stayed in heaven, without ever making himself man in the most pure womb of the Virgin Mary. He came to manifest all the eternal love of the Father and put every man face to his personal responsibility. One can even crucify Christ Jesus, but He will always manifest how great the love of the Father toward man is. One can also accuse him of blasphemy, but he will never shy away from the mission his Father entrusted him. This truth of Christ Jesus should never darken in the hearts of his faithful, them too called and sent to manifest Christ’s truth with their life. When the Christians forget this truth, it is then that Satan reigns on earth and rules the world keeping it in his both spiritual and physical slavery.**

**Let us read the text of Mt 8,28-34**

**When he came to the other side, to the territory of the Gadarenes, two demoniacs who were coming from the tombs met him. They were so savage that no one could travel by that road. They cried out, "What have you to do with us, Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the appointed time?" Some distance away a herd of many swine was feeding. The demons pleaded with him, "If you drive us out, send us into the herd of swine." And he said to them, "Go then!" They came out and entered the swine, and the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea where they drowned. The swineherds ran away, and when they came to the town they reported everything, including what had happened to the demoniacs. Thereupon the whole town came out to meet Jesus, and when they saw him they begged him to leave their district.**

**In Jesus the prophecy of the elderly Simeon is always fulfilled: “The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted (and you yourself a sword will pierce) so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." (Lk 2,33-35). Before Jesus, hearts are unveiled. Those of the town of Gaderenes prefer men to remain possessed by impure spirits rather than their economy to be damaged. These people are those who always sacrifice man to things. They are the ones who make man a slave, even getting to kill him, for an earning that sweats innocent blood, since it is fruit of the sacrifice of the man to things. The leaders of the people, instead, sacrifice Christ the Lord so that their religion founded upon a power of falsity and lie, of deceit and great immorality does not suffer any damage. Everyone has his personal reasons to eliminate Christ Jesus. But eliminating Christ the Lord, the abyss of rottenness being in his heart is brought to full light.**

**Today one wants to remove Christ Jesus not only from the world, not only from the heart of men, but even from the heart of those ones who declare themselves to be his disciples. How does one remove Christ Jesus from the heart of the Church? Not through an explicit invitation like that of Gadarenes and not even with a public condemnation like that of the Sanhedrin of Jerusalem. One removes him from the heart of the Church with devilish and hellish strategy. Satan is convincing Christians – actually, the convincement is not since today, but it is fruit of an endless stream that has already been lasting since centuries – that the confession of Christ creates distinctions among men. Light generates difference with the other lights. His Word operates great distance with the other words. Man cannot be separated because of faith or other religions. Faith and religions must be declared all equal, words all equal, morals all equal. This is the first step. Then, the world blew trumpets and the Church’s walls have collapsed and the Church itself today is vowed to extermination, more than in Jericho. Today the very presence of the Church creates disturbance to men. It must be destroyed. Who is Satan using for this work of destruction? The disciple of Jesus himself.**

**Mother of God, help us. Do not let this happen. Amen.**