**THURSDAY OCTOBER 28 – XXX WEEK O.T. [B]**

**SAINTS SIMON AND JUDE, APOSTLES**

**When day came, he called his disciples to himself, and from them he chose Twelve, whom he also named apostles: Simon, whom he named Peter, and his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called a Zealot, and Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.**

**The mountain is the place of the presence of God, since it is the place where heaven and earth converge. At least looking from afar. One means to say that Jesus goes before the Father. He takes refuge before the Father. He lets himself be surrounded by the Father. This immersion and surrounding in God and by Him lasts all night. In fact, He goes to the mountain to pray and He spends the entire night praying God, namely his Father. The longer and more intense the prayer is and the greater is the work to fulfil. Thus, Jesus teaches us that when one must act in the name of the Father, one must always consult the Father. One consults in the prayer, made in the silence, in a solitary place, without it being disturbed and with no interference of human voices. In the silence surrounding all things, there is place only to listen to the voice of God. Instead, when the prayer is made in the noise, it is difficult to separate the voice of God and the voice of men. Instead, Jesus is sure that He only listens to the voice of the Father.**

**The work of Jesus is not only important for this particular historical moment. It is important for all the time until the coming of the new heaven and new earth. This work will have to last until the consummation of centuries. The mission of Christ will never have to fail. If it fails, the salvation of humanity fails. When day came, he called his disciples to himself, and from them he chose Twelve, whom he also named Apostles, namely envoys. The Twelve Apostles are the column of the Church of Christ Jesus. Column of truth, light, grace, eternal life. Column for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Today Christ Jesus is between the Father and the humanity by the mean of the mediation of the Apostles. Today this truth is dead and buried even in the Catholicity. Once one believed in the universal mediation of Christ Jesus, in the Church, for and with the Church. Today one no longer believes in this mediation of Christ and of the Church. One can go to God through direct ways, without Christ Jesus and without his Church. Without the mediation of the Church, the Church itself dies, it misses its true goal. From this verse, it is evident that the Apostles were called on the mountain. Jesus is before the Father. The Apostles are before the Father. Jesus calls them from the heart of the Father. The Father chooses in the Holy Spirit. Jesus calls and forms.**

**Now Jesus comes down the mountain and stands on a stretch of level ground. There is a great crowd of his disciples and a large number of the people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon. The world is before Jesus. Why do people go to Jesus? Because everyone cultivates a secret hope in the heart and they know that Jesus is capable of fulfilling it. Hope is not only for the thing of the body, but also for the realities of the spirit, of the soul. Man does not only feel his physical poorness that is absence of goods but also of physical health. He also feels the poorness of the spirit and of the soul. He is lacking in the true light, in life, in justice, in truth, in charity, in hope. Christ gives everything.**

**Let us read the text of Lk 6,12-19**

**In those days he departed to the mountain to pray, and he spent the night in prayer to God. When day came, he called his disciples to himself, and from them he chose Twelve, whom he also named apostles: Simon, whom he named Peter, and his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called a Zealot, and Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor. And he came down with them and stood on a stretch of level ground. A great crowd of his disciples and a large number of the people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and even those who were tormented by unclean spirits were cured. Everyone in the crowd sought to touch him because power came forth from him and healed them all.**

**Here are the reasons explaining why the crowd searches for Jesus. They search for Him to listen to his Word, but they also search for Him to be healed of their diseases. Even those who were tormented by unclean spirits are cured. Jesus is a person who really gives. What is the religion of Christ Jesus? It is gift. Gift of the Father of Christ Jesus to men. Gift of Christ Jesus to every man. Gift of every man to Christ Jesus so that Jesus makes a gift to the Father. Jesus gives himself to men by giving his truth, his grace, his omnipotent, creative, healing Word. Man gives himself to Christ by receiving his Word and owning full obedience to it. One listens to obey. Jesus needs the miracle to show the truth of his being and of his operating. The miracle is only sign that must lead to the faith of each Word of Christ. The miracle is vain if one does not get to the true faith in Christ from it.**

**The sick do not even ask for the healing to Jesus. They seek to touch him because power came forth from him and healed them all. Jesus is only one, the needy are many. Why does Jesus not heal everyone at one time with one only word? It is a holy thing to think that there are no anonymous crowd before Jesus. There are single people. Each person wants to be treated as person, seen as person, loved as person, served as person. But also recognized in his dignity of person. Before Jesus, there are no people-object, people to command, people to oblige, people to make slaves, people to deprive of their intelligence, will, rationality.**

**The religion of Jesus is the religion of the dignity of the human person. It is the religion of the service of light and love. It is the religion of the vocation. It is the religion of the obedience to the Word, to Truth, to the Holy Spirit. Everything is aimed so that one achieves the perfect obedience to the will of the Father. It is the religion of the invitation to rediscover one’s own dignity of person made as image and likeness of his Creator, Lord, God. It is the religion in which no person is slave of the other person, as all are children of the Father and all obedient to Him in all things. The Christian religion is a really divine, supernatural religion, truly Trinitarian. Today the transcendent, the divine is disappearing from it.**

**It is the religion in which every child of the Father manifests and reveals every other child of the Father how one obeys the Father, in the Holy Spirit and always led and guided by Him. It is the religion of the cure of the holiness of the person. Since before Jesus there is no crowd, but the person, even the miracle is service to the person and not to the crowd. Every person has the right to meet Christ, feel Christ, listen to Christ, speak to Christ, to his Christ. It is a universal right.**

**We say: No, thanks, to that religion in which, in the name of Christ, one hates, one calumniates, one bears false testimony. One vindicates himself and, with wickedness, one destroy and annihilates the other spiritually and physically. One commits adultery. One divorces. One aborts. One justifies every sexual disorders. One commits the most dreadful crimes as they were acts of great holiness. This religion is the offence of the world. Whoever does not distance himself and does not separate himself from this religion is accomplice of every evil that is perpetrated in it. We say: No, thanks, to that religion in which, in the name of Christ, the Christians are “They are filled with every form of wickedness, evil, greed, and malice; full of envy, murder, rivalry, treachery, and spite. They are gossips and scandalmongers and they hate God. They are insolent, haughty, boastful, ingenious in their wickedness, and rebellious toward their parents. They are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Although they know the just decree of God that all who practice such things deserve death, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.” (Rm 1,29-32) Mother of Jesus, come to our rescue. Free us from this perverse religion.**