**FRIDAY NOVEMBER 12 – XXXII WEEK O.T. [B]**

**As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be in the days of the Son of Man; they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage up to the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.**

**Now Jesus gives some historical references to help the disciples understand the immediateness and the suddenness of his coming. “As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be in the days of the Son of Man.” No premonitory dream. The Lord decides to cleanse the earth from the sin of men sending the flood on it. He orders Noah to build an Ark. Noah obeys. When the gate of the Ark was locked, waters came immediately and covered the earth. Was there anyone who knew what the Lord was about to do? No one. Everyone was unaware of the calamity that was about to fall on them.**

**While Noah was building the ark, people were eating, drinking, marrying and giving in marriage up to the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. The flood was not first in a place and then in another one. The rain fell down from one end to another of the entire earth and in the same moment. It also lasted forty days and forty nights. There was no salvation for anyone. Immediately, the entire life on earth disappeared. Men and animals died. Thus will be when the Lord comes above the clouds of heaven. Everyone will see Him, but everyone will be transformed in one moment. Everyone will appear before the Son of man to be judged by Him. The judgement will be eternal and unappealable.**

**Even when the Lord decided to destroy Sodom, only Abraham knew for revelation of God. We know that Abraham prayed that the Lord did not destroy the town. His prayer stopped at ten righteous men. However, there was only the righteous Lot in the town. The Lord sent his Angels to invite him to leave. Lot was granted the grace of salvation for his two sons-in-law, as well. These ones are warned to leave. But they did not believe in the word of the Angels. It seemed to them that they were joking. Even in that historical time, men were eating, drinking, buying, selling, planting, building. No one thought that his end would have been imminent, sudden.**

**Let us read the text of Lk 17,26-37**

**As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be in the days of the Son of Man; they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage up to the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. Similarly, as it was in the days of Lot: they were eating, drinking, buying, selling, planting, building; on the day when Lot left Sodom, fire and brimstone rained from the sky to destroy them all. So it will be on the day the Son of Man is revealed. On that day, a person who is on the housetop and whose belongings are in the house must not go down to get them, and likewise a person in the field must not return to what was left behind. Remember the wife of Lot. Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses it will save it. I tell you, on that night there will be two people in one bed; one will be taken, the other left. And there will be two women grinding meal together; one will be taken, the other left." They said to him in reply, "Where, Lord?" He said to them, "Where the body is, there also the vultures will gather."**

**Jesus applies the suddenness of these two events to his coming: “So it will be on the day the Son of Man is revealed.” However, we must make a necessary distinction: there is the coming in time and that at the end of time. The coming in time and the coming at the end of times are sudden, but very different. Another truth says that the coming of Jesus in time is not only one. They are multiple and varied. They are coming for the single and also for the multitude. Even if the coming in time are multiple, varied, no one knows when his day or his hour comes. This is why we are all called to be vigilant. The Lord knows for each of us, it might come in one moment, as well. No one knows.**

**Here is what Jesus says about the coming in time: “On that day, a person who is on the housetop and whose belongings are in the house must not go down to get them, and likewise a person in the field must not return to what was left behind.” In time, many are the calamities. The Lord, for mercy, allows man to get only his life to safety. Every other thing will have to be considered as lost. To each one the choice. Losing things and life, or losing things and saving life. This rule is also valid in preparation of our eternity. We cannot bring things and life in heaven. We must choose. One loses things, one brings life in heaven. It is an eternal choice. Either the salvation or the perdition.**

**The wife of Lot became a pillar of salt for not having obeyed to the Word of the Angels. Lot, his wife and his daughters was said to run away without never looking back. The wife looked back and she became a pillar of salt. A pillar of stone, iron, bronze or other material competes against the centuries. A pillar of salt is dissolved in the water and it is crumbled by the wind. It is a pillar with no future. Those who do not believe in the Word of the Lord are without true future. The life of man is a choice: choice of God and Paradise, or choice of earning the life on earth since one chose Satan and things. Jesus warns us: “Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses it will save it.” One keeps life alive, choosing God and his Paradise. How does one choose God and his Paradise? Choosing Christ Jesus and his Word, as the only Word of eternal life for us. Walking in the Word, from faith to faith and from truth to truth, by denying ourselves, one reaches the Paradise.**

**When a sudden calamity happens, both caused by men and by nature, who will live and who will die? No one knows it. “I tell you, on that night there will be two people in one bed; one will be taken, the other left.” Who will be taken and who will be left? Who will die and who will live? No one knows it. There is the one who remains alive and the one who is taken and brought into eternity. This is why we must always be ready to meet the Lord who comes. Not only does no one know when He comes. No one even know for whom He comes. We speak of the coming in time, of course. When He comes above the clouds of heaven, then He will come for everyone in the same moment. Then it will be the end of the world.**

**Now Jesus gives more strength to what already said: “And there will be two women grinding meal together; one will be taken, the other left." But who will be taken and who will be left? No one knows it. One cannot even imagine it. History attests this truth every day. In every calamity, there is the one who stays and the one who leaves. But who leaves and who stays? One knows it only after it, never before it. Every Word of Jesus receives testimony of most pure truth by history.**

**“They said to him in reply.” The ones who say in reply are the disciple. "Where, Lord?" No one knows when. Can one know where the disaster, calamity, tragedy, devastation occurs? This is not possible, either. Everything happening in time is not subject of science. We know the past. We do not know the future. Jesus says to them: "Where the body is, there also the vultures will gather." The body is where the man is. Where the man is, the vultures are always there, or the calamities and the tragedies that will devour him. Who will be devoured today and who tomorrow? No one knows it. Where will one be devoured? No one knows it. From the teaching of Jesus a truth that must be put into heart comes out: no one knows the moment of his end. Man does not even know the place of his end. This is why one should be always prepared. What does it mean to be prepared? Not certainly to the death that will come in any moment and in any time. We must be prepared to face the judgement. Our eternal destiny of hell or Paradise forever will depend on it. May our heavenly Mother obtain for us the grace of living and dying in the Gospel. May the death never find us out of the Gospel.**