**MONDAY FEBRUARY 07 – V WEEK O.T. [C]**

**Whatever villages or towns or countryside he entered, they laid the sick in the marketplaces and begged him that they might touch only the tassel on his cloak; and as many as touched it were healed.**

**In the Old Testament, there are two miracles performed by physical contact, by body to body. The first one is fulfilled by Elijah and the second one by Elisha. It is written in the First Book of Kings: “Some time later the son of the mistress of the house fell sick, and his sickness grew more severe until he stopped breathing. So she said to Elijah, "Why have you done this to me, O man of God? Have you come to me to call attention to my guilt and to kill my son?" "Give me your son," Elijah said to her. Taking him from her lap, he carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his own bed. He called out to the LORD: "O LORD, my God, will you afflict even the widow with whom I am staying by killing her son?" Then he stretched himself out upon the child three times and called out to the LORD: "O LORD, my God, let the life breath return to the body of this child."The LORD heard the prayer of Elijah; the life breath returned to the child's body and he revived. Taking the child, Elijah brought him down into the house from the upper room and gave him to his mother. "See!" Elijah said to her, "your son is alive." "Now indeed I know that you you are a man of God," the woman replied to Elijah. "The word of the LORD comes truly from your mouth." (1Kg 17, 17-24)**

**And written in the Second Book of Kings: "Did I ask my lord for a son?" she cried out. "Did I not beg you not to deceive me?" "Gird your loins," Elisha said to Gehazi, "take my staff with you and be off; if you meet anyone, do not greet him, and if anyone greets you, do not answer. Lay my staff upon the boy." But the boy's mother cried out: "As the LORD lives and as you yourself live, I will not release you." So he started to go back with her. Meanwhile, Gehazi had gone on ahead and had laid the staff upon the boy, but there was no sound or sign of life. He returned to meet Elisha and informed him that the boy had not awakened. When Elisha reached the house, he found the boy lying dead. He went in, closed the door on them both, and prayed to the LORD. Then he lay upon the child on the bed, placing his mouth upon the child's mouth, his eyes upon the eyes, and his hands upon the hands. As Elisha stretched himself over the child, the body became warm. He arose, paced up and down the room, and then once more lay down upon the boy, who now sneezed seven times and opened his eyes. Elisha summoned Gehazi and said, "Call the Shunammite." She came at his call, and Elisha said to her, "Take your son." She came in and fell at his feet in gratitude; then she took her son and left the room.” (2Kg 4, 28-37)**

**A third miracle, of resurrection, it too, is fulfilled from the grave of Elisha:** “**Elisha died and was buried. At the time, bands of Moabites used to raid the land each year. Once some people were burying a man, when suddenly they spied such a raiding band. So they cast the dead man into the grave of Elisha, and everyone went off. But when the man came in contact with the bones of Elisha, he came back to life and rose to his feet.” (2Kg 13, 20-21)**

**Except from the last miracle, in the other two one should notice “a certain effort”, “almost a work”, by Elijah and Elisha, in bringing the two children back to life. Instead, in Jesus, no effort, no work. On the sole contact, even fugacious, every illness disappears and one was healed from every sufferance of the body. Here is a prophecy of Jesus about those who believe in Him:** “**Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father. And whatever you ask in my name, I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything of me in my name, I will do it.” (Jn 14, 12-14) We know that this prophecy is fulfilled in Peter after the descent of the Holy Spirit upon him. Peter healed someone even touching with his shadow:** “**Many signs and wonders were done among the people at the hands of the apostles. They were all together in Solomon's portico. None of the others dared to join them, but the people esteemed them. Yet more than ever, believers in the Lord, great numbers of men and women, were added to them. Thus they even carried the sick out into the streets and laid them on cots and mats so that when Peter came by, at least his shadow might fall on one or another of them. A large number of people from the towns in the vicinity of Jerusalem also gathered, bringing the sick and those disturbed by unclean spirits, and they were all cured.” (Act 5, 12-16) The modality of performing miracles of Christ Jesus and also of the Apostles reveals how infinitively greater is the grace of the New testament in relation to the Old. In the New Testament, Christ is God and works with all the Omnipotence of the Father.**

**Let us read the text of Mk 6,53-56**

**After making the crossing, they came to land at Gennesaret and tied up there. As they were leaving the boat, people immediately recognized him. They scurried about the surrounding country and began to bring in the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. Whatever villages or towns or countryside he entered, they laid the sick in the marketplaces and begged him that they might touch only the tassel on his cloak; and as many as touched it were healed.**

**The magicians of Egypt, seeing Moses working, said to the Pharaoh: “The finger of God is here.” Seeing us Jesus working, we must confess the entire world: “God is here.” Here is the entire God who works with his divine omnipotence. Every miracle of Jesus must lead us to this most pure confession of faith: “The works of Jesus are works of God.” Mother of Jesus, pray for us.**