**SATURDAY APRIL 16 – EASTER VIGIL [C]**

**Their story seemed like nonsense and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb, bent down, and saw the burial cloths alone; then he went home amazed at what had happened.**

**Every evangelist narrates the resurrection of Jesus according to particular historical elements. Every element reveals to us a detail of what happened the morning after the sabbath. However, there is a common element in all the four Gospels: the faith of the Apostles is not a derived faith, instead it is a faith directly made with the meeting of the Risen Christ. Even the Evangelist Thomas does not found his faith in the resurrection from the faith of the other Apostles who were in the cenacle in the evening of the Passover. He has not believed in the other Apostles. He wanted to meet the Risen Christ. Rather, he pretended not only to see him, not only to touch him, but to put a finger instead of the nails and the hand in his side. Even the Apostle Paul passed to the faith in the resurrection and in the full truth of Christ Jesus, the Risen and the Lord, through the way of the direct vision:** “**Now Saul, still breathing murderous threats against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, that, if he should find any men or women who belonged to the Way, he might bring them back to Jerusalem in chains. On his journey, as he was nearing Damascus, a light from the sky suddenly flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" He said, "Who are you, sir?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. Now get up and go into the city and you will be told what you must do." The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, for they heard the voice but could see no one. Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him to Damascus. For three days he was unable to see, and he neither ate nor drank.” (Act 9, 1-9)**

**In the narration of Luke, there is a particular which deserves all our attention. The women tell what they had seen and heard by the tomb where Jesus was deposed. This narration seemed like nonsense to the Apostle. They were not deemed worthy of faith. Peter has a debt to pay off with the Teacher, though. He gets up and runs to the tomb and sees the burial cloths, he does not find the body. He returns home filled with amazement. Amazement is always a sign of an event that goes far beyond our mind. Peter truly finds himself before the resurrection of Jesus. He does not see the Risen Jesus. He does not find Jesus Crucified. He finds the burial cloths, though. From this vision, the fact that Jesus is truly risen begins to make its way. The Gospel tells nothing else and neither can we add something. One thing is to be said, though: the Holy Spirit is working to create a faith in Peter in the resurrection of Jesus, faith that tomorrow will have to be as a foundation of every other faith in Christ, faith that will have to fight tomorrow to affirm the truth of Jesus. We know that the Holy Spirit is working for Him since some time. Also on the mount of transfiguration, the Spirit of the Lord has written something indelible: “We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that unique declaration came to him from the majestic glory, "This is my Son, my beloved, with whom I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven while we were with him on the holy mountain. Moreover, we possess the prophetic message that is altogether reliable. You will do well to be attentive to it, as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. Know this first of all, that there is no prophecy of scripture that is a matter of personal interpretation, for no prophecy ever came through human will; but rather human beings moved by the holy Spirit spoke under the influence of God.” (2Pt 1, 16-21) The Holy Spirit knows how to work on Peter.**

**Let us read the text of Lk 24,1-12**

**But at daybreak on the first day of the week they took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb; but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were puzzling over this, behold, two men in dazzling garments appeared to them. They were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground. They said to them, "Why do you seek the living one among the dead? He is not here, but he has been raised. Remember what he said to you while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners and be crucified, and rise on the third day." And they remembered his words. Then they returned from the tomb and announced all these things to the eleven and to all the others. The women were Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James; the others who accompanied them also told this to the apostles, but their story seemed like nonsense and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb, bent down, and saw the burial cloths alone; then he went home amazed at what had happened.**

**Now let us ask: do we know how the Holy Spirit works with us to create a most pure faith in the mystery of Christ Jesus in us? Do we let ourselves be led by the Spirit in the mystery of Jesus the Lord or have we been conquered by the spirit of the world by now? Mother of God, save us.**