**MONDAY APRIL 18 – OCTAVE OF EASTER [C]**

**"You are to say, 'His disciples came by night and stole him while we were asleep.' And if this gets to the ears of the governor, we will satisfy (him) and keep you out of trouble."**

**The evildoers make themselves inexcusable before God because of the deeds and the words they fulfil. Here is how they condemn themselves:** **“They who said among themselves, thinking not aright:** **Let us oppress the needy just man; let us neither spare the widow nor revere the old man for his hair grown white with time. But let our strength be our norm of justice; for weakness proves itself useless. Let us beset the just one, because he is obnoxious to us; he sets himself against our doings, Reproaches us for transgressions of the law and charges us with violations of our training. He professes to have knowledge of God and styles himself a child of the LORD. To us he is the censure of our thoughts; merely to see him is a hardship for us, Because his life is not like other men's, and different are his ways. He judges us debased; he holds aloof from our paths as from things impure. He calls blest the destiny of the just and boasts that God is his Father. Let us see whether his words be true; let us find out what will happen to him. For if the just one be the son of God, he will defend him and deliver him from the hand of his foes. With revilement and torture let us put him to the test that we may have proof of his gentleness and try his patience. Let us condemn him to a shameful death; for according to his own words, God will take care of him." (Wis 2, 1a. 10-20) The chief priests, the scribes, the Pharisees, the chief of people have set traps to Christ Jesus. They even challenged Him when He was on the Cross:** “**Likewise the chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him and said, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. So he is the king of Israel! Let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusted in God; let him deliver him now if he wants him. For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" The revolutionaries who were crucified with him also kept abusing him in the same way.” (Mt 27, 41-44)**

**Jesus is laid in the tomb. The chief priests, the scribes and the Pharisees put the guards to secure the grave so that no one steals the body and then says that Jesus is risen: “The next day, the one following the day of preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, "Sir, we remember that this impostor while still alive said, 'After three days I will be raised up.' Give orders, then, that the grave be secured until the third day, lest his disciples come and steal him and say to the people, 'He has been raised from the dead.' This last imposture would be worse than the first." Pilate said to them, "The guard is yours; go secure it as best you can." (Mt 27, 62-65) Jesus rises up. It is not Simon Peter who goes to the chief priests, to the Pharisees and to the scribes to announce that Jesus is risen. The guards they put to secure the grave do. Having they paid the guards to spread slander and false testimony about the disciples, not being able to deny the event Jesus’s resurrection, they are eternally guilty before God and history of their non-faith in the resurrection and consequently of the non-faith that Jesus is the Righteous of God, his Messiah, his Suffering Servant, the Redeemer and the Saviour of the world. The lord has given them the sign that Jesus is his Christ and his Righteous. They did not believe. They are responsible. They have asked for the sign. They said they would have believed. Instead, once again they denied the evidence. However, thus doing, they are really inexcusable. They did not believe in what they said: “Let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him.” Jesus did not come down from the cross. He rose up from death. The sign is even more powerful.**

**Let us read the text of Mt 28,9-15**

**Then they went away quickly from the tomb, fearful yet overjoyed, and ran to announce this to his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them on their way and greeted them. They approached, embraced his feet, and did him homage. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me." While they were going, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had happened. They assembled with the elders and took counsel; then they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came by night and stole him while we were asleep.' And if this gets to the ears of the governor, we will satisfy (him) and keep you out of trouble." The soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has circulated among the Jews to the present (day).**

**Man is rationality. Through this way one can always come to the true faith in the true God, in the true Christ of God. If one does not come through the way of rationality, it is sign that the sin has darkened it in heart and in mind. Being responsible of this darkening, as it is fruit of his sin in him, man becomes responsible of all the sins that will be committed because of this darkening. It is universal truth. It is worthy for the others, but also for us. Suffocating the truth in injustice is inexcusable sin. May the Mother of God deliver us from this sin.**