**WEDNESDAY APRIL 27 – SECOND WEEK OF EASTER [C]**

**Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.**

**Believing in Christ Jesus means accepting his Word and building up one’s own house on it, becoming one only body with Christ. Here is what Jesus teaches in the Gospel according to Matthew: "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road broad that leads to destruction, and those who enter through it are many. How narrow the gate and constricted the road that leads to life. And those who find it are few. "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but underneath are ravenous wolves. By their fruits you will know them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Just so, every good tree bears good fruit, and a rotten tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a rotten tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. So by their fruits you will know them. "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name? Did we not drive out demons in your name? Did we not do mighty deeds in your name?' Then I will declare to them solemnly, 'I never knew you. Depart from me, you evildoers.' "Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. But it did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock. And everyone who listens to these words of mine but does not act on them will be like a fool who built his house on sand. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. And it collapsed and was completely ruined." (Mt 7, 13-27) Believing in Christ Jesus means believing in his Word. If one does not believe in his Word, one does not believe in Christ Jesus. One believes in his Word, making it become the unique and only Law of our life.**

**Why do we have to believe in Christ, the gift the Father gave us to have the eternal life? Because we are in the death, in the darkness. We are not in the life and neither in the light. Being in the death and in the darkness, we pass from death to life and from darkness to light by the faith in Him, and one has faith in Him when one becomes one body and one life with Him. This becoming one body and one life in Him must not be invisible in any form. On the contrary, it is to be visible and this form is becoming member and child of his Church. Everything is to be in the visibility. Visible is the life according to the Gospel. Visible is the belonging to the Church. Visible is the following or discipleship. The conscience saves when no one has announced the Gospel. Here is how this truth is proclaimed by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of the Apostle Paul:** **All who sin outside the law will also perish without reference to it, and all who sin under the law will be judged in accordance with it. For it is not those who hear the law who are just in the sight of God; rather, those who observe the law will be justified. For when the Gentiles who do not have the law by nature observe the prescriptions of the law, they are a law for themselves even though they do not have the law. They show that the demands of the law are written in their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even defend them on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge people's hidden works through Christ Jesus.” (Rm 2, 12-16) Jesus’s words contained in the Gospel according to Mark remain eternal truth for us: "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned. These signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will drive out demons, they will speak new languages. They will pick up serpents (with their hands), and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not harm them. They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." (Mk 16, 15-18) Visibility is essence and substance of our faith. If faith is invisible, it is void faith. There is no invisible Christian.**

**Let us read the text of Jn 3,16-21**

**For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.**

**There is another element we must highlight. Whoever lets himself be overcome by sin is filled with the same hate of Satan against Christ Jesus and his Gospel. In sin, it is as if Satan transplanted his heart in ours and from his heart he uninterruptedly erupts only hate against the truth and against the light of Christ and of his Gospel. The more one nourishes himself with sin and the more the heart of Satan grows in us, growing his hate against the only way of salvation and of redemption the Lord has given us. Mother of God, help us rid ourselves of every sin. We will love truth.**