**THURSDAY MAY 05 – THIRD WEEK OF EASTER [C]**

**Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, but they died; this is the bread that comes down from heaven so that one may eat it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world.**

**Not only did their fathers die in the desert, the Lord was not pleased with most of them. Here is how the Apostle Paul describes this death, that is first spiritual death and physical death then:** “**I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea, and all of them were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. All ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they drank from a spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was the Christ. Yet God was not pleased with most of them, for they were struck down in the desert. These things happened as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil things, as they did. And do not become idolaters, as some of them did, as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel." Let us not indulge in immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell within a single day. Let us not test Christ as some of them did, and suffered death by serpents. Do not grumble as some of them did, and suffered death by the destroyer. These things happened to them as an example, and they have been written down as a warning to us, upon whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore, whoever thinks he is standing secure should take care not to fall. No trial has come to you but what is human. God is faithful and will not let you be tried beyond your strength; but with the trial he will also provide a way out, so that you may be able to bear it.” (1Cor 10, 1-10)**

**It is righteous thing to ask: why, despite having all eaten the manna, were they exterminated in the desert by the death? Because the manna nourished a dead nature. It kept alive a nature producing only death. The dead nature was incapable of giving life. The Word of the Lord gave life. Being nature dead, it was incapable of receiving the Word of faith and of remaining faithful to it. Instead, whom Christ Jesus gives the bread of life? He does not give it to the nature that is in the death. He rather gives it to the nature that has returned into life through he sacrament of the baptism. This is the reason why one used to teach that the Eucharist is the sacrament of the living and one required the state of sanctifying grace as condition to be able to receive it. Unfortunately, today one receives it in the death of the soul and of the spirit and not only does one exposes to nothingness, but there is often the risk that one may expose it to sacrilege, too. The Apostle Paul has heavy words against those who exposes the sacrament of the Eucharist to sacrilege and also to nothingness:** “**For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes. Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord unworthily will have to answer for the body and blood of the Lord. A person should examine himself, and so eat the bread and drink the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body, eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many among you are ill and infirm, and a considerable number are dying. If we discerned ourselves, we would not be under judgment; but since we are judged by (the) Lord, we are being disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.” (1Cor 11, 26-32) If from one part the ministries of the Eucharist are to always remind that this sacrament is of the living and not of the dead, they cannot deny the Eucharist to anyone, when one stands before the altar to receive it. One cannot deny it privately, either, if, by internal forum, he had to know he is in the death. He might never transfer the internal forum in the external forum and he can never deny it if he comes to know about his state of spiritual death through intermediaries. The person might have repented of his state of death and have returned in the grace. To the ministry of the Eucharist the duty of remember the truth of the sacrament and the necessary obligations to be able to drawing close to it. Then, it is responsibility of the single person to receive it in a worthy way. This is why the Apostle Paul says: “A person should examine himself, and so eat the bread and drink the cup.” The examination is necessary.**

**Let us read the text of Jn 6,44-51**

**No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draw him, and I will raise him on the last day. It is written in the prophets: 'They shall all be taught by God.' Everyone who listens to my Father and learns from him comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, but they died; this is the bread that comes down from heaven so that one may eat it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world."**

**Jesus wants there to be any misunderstandings. The bread He is speaking about is not the bread of the word and neither the material bread he had already given them with the multiplication happened the earlier day. The bread He will give for their life is his flesh. True, real, substantial flesh. He will give his body and his flesh for the life of man. May the Mother of Jesus help us live this mystery in purity of faith.**