**FRIDAY MAY 06 – THIRD WEEK OF EASTER [C]**

**Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever.**

**Before the affirmation of Christ Jesus about the gift of his body and of his blood given as nourishment of immortality, the Jews question themselves. They are wondering. They would like an explanation. There is no explanation for this mystery. In fact, this is the mystery of faith. The mystery of mysteries. Jesus only reiterates that his body is true food and his blood true drink. In order to believe in the words of Jesus, the Jews are asked to trample their tradition and the own ritual Law of Moses – not moral Law, but only ritual Law – under their feet. They had to spread the blood on the ground. No one could ever have dared to eat it nor to drink it either. Not to mention thinking that right the blood of Jesus had to be drunk and his flesh eaten to have the life, not to die in eternity. Truly, sometimes faith asks to empty our mind and our heart. It asks to trample our past. It asks to only trust the Word of the Lord. Only upon the Word of Jesus one shall believe in the Eucharist that is true, real, substantial body of Christ, his true, real, substantial blood given to us so that we eat and we drink them to have the life, not to die in eternity.**

**A truth that is never to be forgotten: the Eucharist is the strength making us live for Christ, in the same way as Christ lives for the Father. With this revelation, the Eucharist is indissolubly bound with the Gospel. The Gospel is the tree and the Eucharist is the lymph of the tree. Being nourished with the Eucharist, the entire Gospel becomes liveable. One shall give every obedience to it. But what is the first obedience to the Gospel? It is its conversion to it. This conversion to the Gospel is not the fruit of the Eucharist in the one who converts, though, but it is the fruit of the Eucharist nourishing the life of the Christian the Gospel announces. The more the herald and the missionaries of the Gospel nourish themselves with the Eucharist, according to the truth of the Eucharist, and the more their Word, become, always through the means of the grace of the Eucharist, carrier of the Holy Spirit, enters the hearts, pierces them, leads them into the most pure faith in the Gospel, making them pass through the new birth from water and from Holy Spirit. If the one who preaches the Gospel celebrates the mystery of the Eucharist in a superficial way, as a distracted, with no piety, deprived of the faith, with the heart turned to the things of this world, his word is like a boulder, it might never become a dart entering the heart and piercing it, converting it to the Gospel. Therefore, great is the responsibility of the one who is sent into the world to proclaim the Gospel. His Word must be a dart of the Holy Spirit and it becomes it if the heart of the herald of the Gospel is immersed in the heart of the Eucharist and remains immersed in it forever, without ever leaving it. If the heart turns away from the fire of the Eucharist, its word stops being a dart and it immediately turns into a boulder. The hearts are not pierced and no conversion happens. This is the true failure of our preaching. We have turned the darts of the Holy Spirit in large boulders.**

**Let us read the text of Jn 6,52-59**

**The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us (his) flesh to eat?" Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever." These things he said while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum.**

**Let no one delude himself. Either his heart always remains immersed in the Eucharist, without ever leaving it, or his evangelization will be made of words as large as boulders and never of very subtle darts capable of piercing any heart. This is the question every evangelizer should ask himself: what is my faith in the Eucharist? Is it most pure faith? Is my love for the Eucharist true love similar to the love of the Virgin Mary and of the Martyrs and of the Confessors of faith? If my love and my faith are most pure, then my Word will be similar to a dart and the Holy Spirit, through it, will pierce the hearts and attract them to Christ Jesus. Instead, if my faith is impure, superficial and I even receive the Eucharist in the mortal sin, without even considering the issue before God, then my word will never convert one only person. Not only will he not convert, moreover he will also be reason of offence and of disturbance for many hearts. Many hearts will not convert to Christ Jesus precisely because they feel the word as a large boulder from which one is to depart not to be overwhelmed. Unfortunately today there is no relation between Eucharist and Word. But also many ones say Words of Gospel without any Eucharist. Christians are not formed. We are far beyond. Neither does one want the Christians to be formed. One wants man to remain in his sin and in his death. May the Virgin Mary help us. We want to combine Eucharist and Gospel in a wondrous way. The Holy Spirit shall renew the Church.**