**TUESDAY MAY 10 – FOURTH WEEK OF EASTER [C]**

**I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish. No one can take them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one can take them out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one.**

**As Jesus, has given his life for the life of the sheep, letting himself be given by the Father, so every Shepherd in Christ, if he loves the sheep of Christ as Jesus loves the sheep of the Father for He loves the Father, must give the life for the sheep of Christ and he might give the life if he loves Christ Jesus more than his own life, in the same way as Jesus loves the Father more than his own life: “And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life." 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.” (Jn 3, 14-21) We can paraphrase this truth about Christ Jesus: “Christ Jesus has loved the world so much, He loves the world so much to give all his body for his salvation and redemption until the day of Parusia.” However, as Christ Jesus has let himself be given by the Father with an obedience until the death and to a death of cross, so also every disciple of Jesus is to let himself be given with an obedience until death and to a death of cross. Christ can nothing if the Christian does not offer himself to him totally, so that He, in Him, with Him, through Him, makes a pure and holy offer pleased to the Father for the salvation of the world. If the Christian offers himself, Christ Jesus gives him. If The Christian does not offer himself, Christ Jesus might never give him.**

**The Christian is to give himself to Christ in the same way in which Christ has given himself to the Father:** “**For this reason, when he came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; holocausts and sin offerings you took no delight in. Then I said, 'As is written of me in the scroll, Behold, I come to do your will, O God.'" First he says, "Sacrifices and offerings, holocausts and sin offerings, you neither desired nor delighted in." These are offered according to the law. Then he says, "Behold, I come to do your will." He takes away the first to establish the second. By this "will," we have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.” (Hb 10, 5-10) As Christ Jesus has become sacrifice and nourishment of truth and of grace for the sheep of the Father, so every member of the body of Christ is to become in Christ sacrifice and nourishment of truth, grace, light, holiness for every other member. Without the Christian sacrifice, added to the sacrifice of Christ Jesus, one does not become one only person with Christ and no sheep of Christ is nourished through him. One lets it die of hunger and of thirst and truly today many are the sheep of Christ condemned to die of hunger and of thirst.**

**Let us read the text of Jn 10,22-30**

**The feast of the Dedication was then taking place in Jerusalem. It was winter. And Jesus walked about in the temple area on the Portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long are you going to keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." Jesus answered them, "I told you and you do not believe. The works I do in my Father's name testify to me. But you do not believe, because you are not among my sheep. My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish. No one can take them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one can take them out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."**

**As Christ Jesus and the Father, in the Holy Spirit, are one only divine and eternal force and no one might never tear one only sheep from the Father’s hand, that is in the history the hand of Christ Jesus, so the Shepherd of Christ and Christ, in the Holy Spirit, is to become one only divine and eternal force, and thus no one might tear one only sheep from the Father’s hand that is Christ Jesus’s hand. One can only lose the sheep that wants to lose itself. But the responsibility is only of the sheep. Instead, if the Shepherd does not become in the Holy Spirit, in Christ, one only thing, one only divine and eternal force, the sheep loses itself, but the fault of its perdition is only of the Shepherd. He must answer to God tomorrow. Where are the sheep I entrusted you? Where are the sheep I sent you? But we can ask: when have you sent them to me? The ways have been multiple. They are multiple. Even the request of a certificate is a way of encounter. A funeral is a way of encounter. The request of a sacrament is a way of encounter. A conference one is forced to is a way of encounter. Every liturgical celebration is a way of encounter. In these multiple encounters, Shepherd, have you given yourself or have you given me? Christ the Lord will ask us that on the judgement. Have you given your thoughts or my heart? It urges to reflect. May the Mother of God help us always give the sheep sent to us the heart of Christ, the heart of the Father, the heart of the Holy Spirit.**