**MONDAY MAY 23 – SIXTH WEEK OF EASTER [C]**

**They will expel you from the synagogues; in fact, the hour is coming when everyone who kills you will think he is offering worship to God.**

**Jesus has promised nothing to his disciples, but a perennial suffering. They are sent in the world to take the souls away to the prince of the world and the prince of the world will discourage them with every sufferings in order to make them refrain from preaching the Gospel. If they perseverate in the preaching, he will deprive them of their own life. Here is how Jesus speaks with clarity of truth:** **"Behold, I am sending you like sheep in the midst of wolves; so be shrewd as serpents and simple as doves. But beware of people, for they will hand you over to courts and scourge you in their synagogues, and you will be led before governors and kings for my sake as a witness before them and the pagans. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say. You will be given at that moment what you are to say. For it will not be you who speak but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will hand over brother to death, and the father his child; children will rise up against parents and have them put to death. You will be hated by all because of my name, but whoever endures to the end will be saved. When they persecute you in one town, flee to another. Amen, I say to you, you will not finish the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.**

**No disciple is above his teacher, no slave above his master. It is enough for the disciple that he become like his teacher, for the slave that he become like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more those of his household! "Therefore do not be afraid of them. Nothing is concealed that will not be revealed, nor secret that will not be known. What I say to you in the darkness, speak in the light; what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna. Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father's knowledge. Even all the hairs of your head are counted. So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father. But whoever denies me before others, I will deny before my heavenly Father.” (Mt 10, 16-33)**

**Jesus said to them in reply, "See that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Messiah,' and they will deceive many. You will hear of wars and reports of wars; see that you are not alarmed, for these things must happen, but it will not yet be the end. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be famines and earthquakes from place to place. All these are the beginning of the labor pains. Then they will hand you over to persecution, and they will kill you. You will be hated by all nations because of my name. And then many will be led into sin; they will betray and hate one another. Many false prophets will arise and deceive many; and because of the increase of evildoing, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who perseveres to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached throughout the world as a witness to all nations, and then the end will come.” (Mt 24, 4-14)**

**Might the disciples cross this constantly stormy, without a day of truce ever? They might cross it with the strength of the Holy Spirit, his wisdom and intelligence, his counsel and his love. If the Apostles are always filled with the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit will make himself an impregnable fortress around them until their last hour comes. Then when their last hour comes, He will allow them to be handed over to the great tribulation in order to wear the garment of the martyrdom leading to the greatest glory of heaven. But even if the Christian departs from the Spirit of the Lord, he is immediately overcome by the spirit of the world and it will be it to crucify the disciples of Jesus. Whoever makes himself world with the world, even if he is disciple of Jesus, will always be a crucifier of his brothers. He is under the ruling of the prince of the world and this ruling has one only law: always crucifying all those who believe in Christ Jesus with living and true faith.**

**Let us read the text of Jn 15,26-16,4a**

**"When the Advocate comes whom I will send you from the Father, the Spirit of truth that proceeds from the Father, he will testify to me. And you also testify, because you have been with me from the beginning. "I have told you this so that you may not fall away. They will expel you from the synagogues; in fact, the hour is coming when everyone who kills you will think he is offering worship to God. They will do this because they have not known either the Father or me. I have told you this so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you.**

**Whoever wants to bear witness to Christ Jesus with words and with life must be prepared to the great persecution. He crucifies the world. The world will always crucify him. A truth is to be highlighted. The world is not only whoever has refused Christ. The world are also the disciples of Jesus who no longer live according to the Gospel of Christ Jesus. They, too, are crucifiers of their brothers of faith. Whoever does not live according to the Gospel is world, he acts like the world, he crucifies like the world. May the Mother of Jesus obtain for us the grace of dwelling in the Word of his Son.**