**TUESDAY MAY 24 – SIXTH WEEK OF EASTER [C]**

**But because I told you this, grief has filled your hearts. But I tell you the truth, it is better for you that I go. For if I do not go, the Advocate will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.**

**Without the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles, they would have had a useless life. Even if chosen by the Lord to be his visible and audible presence in history, their presence would have been useless, vain, ineffective. The one who makes a presence useful in order to salvation is only the Spirit of the Lord. But the Spirit is the gift of Christ Jesus and He can only pour out from his body pierced on the cross. When does the earth begin to live again? When does the Dead Sea turn itself into Living Sea? Only when the Apostles become this river in the river of Christ that is the river of the Holy Spirit:** “**Then he brought me back to the entrance of the temple, and I saw water flowing out from beneath the threshold of the temple toward the east, for the facade of the temple was toward the east; the water flowed down from the southern side of the temple, south of the altar. He led me outside by the north gate, and around to the outer gate facing the east, where I saw water trickling from the southern side. Then when he had walked off to the east with a measuring cord in his hand, he measured off a thousand cubits and had me wade through the water, which was ankle-deep. He measured off another thousand and once more had me wade through the water, which was now knee-deep. Again he measured off a thousand and had me wade; the water was up to my waist. Once more he measured off a thousand, but there was now a river through which I could not wade; for the water had risen so high it had become a river that could not be crossed except by swimming. He asked me, "Have you seen this, son of man?" Then he brought me to the bank of the river, where he had me sit. Along the bank of the river I saw very many trees on both sides. He said to me, "This water flows into the eastern district down upon the Arabah, and empties into the sea, the salt waters, which it makes fresh. Wherever the river flows, every sort of living creature that can multiply shall live, and there shall be abundant fish, for wherever this water comes the sea shall be made fresh. Fishermen shall be standing along it from En-gedi to En-eglaim, spreading their nets there. Its kinds of fish shall be like those of the Great Sea, very numerous. Only its marshes and swamps shall not be made fresh; they shall be left for salt. Along both banks of the river, fruit trees of every kind shall grow; their leaves shall not fade, nor their fruit fail. Every month they shall bear fresh fruit, for they shall be watered by the flow from the sanctuary. Their fruit shall serve for food, and their leaves for medicine." (Ez 47, 1-12)**

**Now since it was preparation day, in order that the bodies might not remain on the cross on the sabbath, for the sabbath day of that week was a solemn one, the Jews asked Pilate that their legs be broken and they be taken down. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and then of the other one who was crucified with Jesus. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs, but one soldier thrust his lance into his side, and immediately blood and water flowed out. An eyewitness has testified, and his testimony is true; he knows that he is speaking the truth, so that you also may (come to) believe. For this happened so that the scripture passage might be fulfilled: "Not a bone of it will be broken." And again another passage says: "They will look upon him whom they have pierced." (Jn 19, 31-37) Every disciple of Jesus is called to choose: whether he wants to be dead presence in history leaving history a Dead Sea, in which there is absence of every supernatural life, or he wants to turn it into a Living Sea in which the love of the Father, the grace of Christ Jesus, the communion of the Holy Spirit abound. Not only must the Christian be river of the Holy Spirit in the Holy Spirit, through him, from his life entirely handed over to Christ and to his Gospel, the Holy Spirit must always pour out so that the river of the Spirit be always swollen with a lot of water. Today this is the poorness, the great poorness of the Church: the river of the Spirit is decreasing more and more in its flow, since many Christians have chosen to follow the world and the thought of the world.**

**Let us read the text of Jn 16, 5-11**

**But now I am going to the one who sent me, and not one of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' But because I told you this, grief has filled your hearts. But I tell you the truth, it is better for you that I go. For if I do not go, the Advocate will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes he will convict the world in regard to sin and righteousness and condemnation: sin, because they do not believe in me; righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will no longer see me; condemnation, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.**

**The Holy Spirit is the one who turns every disciple of Jesus from ineffective presence into effective presence, from presence of death into presence of life, from barren presence into presence rich in fruits, from presence according to the world into presence according to Christ Jesus, from presence of sin and of evil into presence of grace and of good. Whoever wants to grow as effective presence, of life, rich in fruits, into true presence of Christ Jesus, must grow in the Holy Spirit. If the communion with the Spirit of the Lord fades in him, the light fades and from presence of light, he will become presence of darkness. As the Virgin Mary has conceived Christ Jesus through the work of the Holy Spirit, so in the disciple of Jesus no good might be conceived and fulfilled but through the work of the Holy Spirit. May the Mother of God help us live in this mystery.**