**29 MAY – ASCENSION OF THE LORD [C]**

**And that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.**

**Jesus rises up to heaven. He withdraws from the sight of his disciples. However, He remains with them until the consummation of the centuries. This truth is revealed by Jesus. The Gospel both according to Matthew and according to Mark attest it:** **"All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." (Mt 28, 19-20)** **He said to them, "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned. These signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will drive out demons, they will speak new languages. They will pick up serpents (with their hands), and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not harm them. They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." So then the Lord Jesus, after he spoke to them, was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God. But they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word through accompanying signs.” (Mk 16, 15-20) Jesus is with his disciples. But when is He with his disciples? Here is what Jesus reveals in the Gospel according to Matthew:** “**Again, (amen,) I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." (Mt 18, 19-20) When is one gathered together in the name of Jesus? A brief reflection will help us understand the Word of Jesus according to truth:**

**When, within the Church, the Pope and the Bishops, the Bishops and the Presbyters, the Presbyters and the lay faithful, the lay faithful and the lay faithful, are gatherer together in the name of Jesus, then there is the Holy Spirit in action, for every communion, every union, every gathering in the name of Christ is fruit of the Holy Spirit and it always produces fruits of the Holy Spirit. The deep unity, community, gathering in Christ and in the Holy Spirit must always reign between Theology and Prophecy. The Holy Spirit, for the reason of this unity, communion, union, always produces excellent fruits. However, if temptation introduces itself in this unity, communion, gathering, and the separation occurs, the Holy Spirit can no longer work his fruits of eternal life. Temptation wants one to declare the prophecy no longer a prophecy and theology no longer theology. When one falls into this temptation, when the community and the unity are broken within the Church, when one no longer gathers in the name of Christ Jesus, then the Holy Spirit withdraws and Christ Jesus withdraws as well. It is the end of the evangelizing mission, of salvation and of redemption. Where the Holy Spirit is absent, there is only spiritual desert. When the Holy Spirit creates a work, it will always have to remain in the truth wanted and thought by the Spirit of the Lord. The truth of the Holy Spirit are the ways set by Him in his eternal wisdom. The will and the wisdom of the Holy Spirit might ever be subjected to the men’s judgement, even though they were the greatest saints of the earth. Neither the greatest holiness understands the things of the Spirit, if they are not revealed by the Holy Spirit. A truth one must never forget. One must always remember it. If the disciples of Christ Jesus want Jesus to walk and work together with them, they must always act in the name of Christ and one acts in the name of Christ if one is moved and guided by the Holy Spirit. The mystery surrounding the missionaries of the Gospel is great.**

**Let us read the text of Lk 24,46-53**

**And he said to them, "Thus it is written that the Messiah would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And (behold) I am sending the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high." Then he led them (out) as far as Bethany, raised his hands, and blessed them. As he blessed them he parted from them and was taken up to heaven. They did him homage and then returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and they were continually in the temple praising God.**

**Why must the Apostles begin the announcement of the Gospel from Jerusalem? The reason is of pure theology. Before the glorious resurrection, all the Scriptures, in the Person of Jesus, have not been fulfilled. Someone could even have thought that He was not the promised Messiah. After the glorious resurrection, all the Words of the Scriptures have been fulfilled. Now there are scriptural reasons not to believe. All the scriptural reasons are so that one believes. Whoever does not believe is responsible of his non-faith. But there is another reason. Jesus has said that every thought against the Son of man will be forgiven. The sin against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven. Now that Jesus is risen, in Jerusalem the heart of the one who has sinned against the Son of man and the one who has sinned against the Holy Spirit, instead, must be unveiled. Whoever has sinned against the Son of man, if he believes and accepts Christ Jesus, will be forgiven. Instead, whoever has sinned against the Holy Spirit will refuse Christ, whoever will fight against Him, will not be forgiven. With the preaching in Jerusalem, every heart will be placed before itself. It will be responsible of its life and of its death. May the Mother of God help us. We want to enter the life.**