**FRIDAY MAY 03 – SEVENTH WEEK OF EASTER [C]**

**Amen, amen, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to dress yourself and go where you wanted; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." He said this signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when he had said this, he said to him, "Follow me."**

**Jesus wants to bring the light of truth in the heart of everyone. Simon Peter has denied the Lord. Will he be able to govern the sheep and the lambs of the Lord? In the Cenacle Jesus had prophesised the triple denial and it was fulfilled:** **Simon Peter said to him, "Master, where are you going?" Jesus answered (him), "Where I am going, you cannot follow me now, though you will follow later." Peter said to him, "Master, why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you." Jesus answered, "Will you lay down your life for me? Amen, amen, I say to you, the cock will not crow before you deny me three times." (Jn 13, 36-38)** “**Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Now the other disciple was known to the high priest, and he entered the courtyard of the high priest with Jesus. But Peter stood at the gate outside. So the other disciple, the acquaintance of the high priest, went out and spoke to the gatekeeper and brought Peter in. hen the maid who was the gatekeeper said to Peter, "You are not one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not." Now the slaves and the guards were standing around a charcoal fire that they had made, because it was cold, and were warming themselves. Peter was also standing there keeping warm.” (Jn 18, 15-18)** “**Now Simon Peter was standing there keeping warm. And they said to him, "You are not one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the one whose ear Peter had cut off, said, "Didn't I see you in the garden with him?" Again Peter denied it. And immediately the cock crowed. Then they brought Jesus from Caiaphas to the praetorium. It was morning. And they themselves did not enter the praetorium, in order not to be defiled so that they could eat the Passover.” (Jn 18, 25-28)**

**Now Jesus enters in his Apostles’ life again and, once again, He pronounces a prophecy about Peter. However, He first asks Peter to manifest to the other Apostles that his love for his Master is sincere and also very strong. He truly loves Christ Jesus more than all the other Apostles do, put together. Regarding this manifestation, Jesus entrusts him with both the sheep and the lambs. He entrusts him with the Apostles and every other member of his body. From this moment on, Peter is to deal with one thing: with loving Christ Jesus more than all the others, more than the entire body of Christ that is his Church. His love toward Jesus is to be shown and evident. Every heart is to confess: Peter truly loves Jesus more than me. He truly overcomes me in the love for my Lord. Truly, there is no one in the world who loves Jesus and Simon Peter does. The obedience of both the sheep and of the lamb will be founded on this love. Without the vision of this love, one might fall into non-listening, in indifference, but also – a thing that must never happen – in critique and murmuring. What was said to Joshua is valid for Simon Peter: "We will do all you have commanded us," they answered Joshua, "and we will go wherever you send us. We will obey you as completely as we obeyed Moses. But may the LORD, your God, be with you as he was with Moses. If anyone rebels against your orders and does not obey every command you give him, he shall be put to death. But be firm and steadfast." (Js 1, 16-18) The obedience to the great love of Peter is the source of the obedience to the perfect faith of Peter. If the great love lacks, the great obedience will always lacks. Without obedience there is no true build-up of the body of Christ, of his Church. This love is at the foundation of the unity of the disciples of Jesus. In love, the whole Peter’s life is of Christ Jesus.**

**Let us read the text of Jn 21,15-19**

**When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." He then said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was distressed that he had said to him a third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." (Jesus) said to him, "Feed my sheep. Amen, amen, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to dress yourself and go where you wanted; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." He said this signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when he had said this, he said to him, "Follow me."**

**Now Jesus attests for Peter. There will not be a second denial. The perfect discipleship of Jesus the Lord will be for Peter. He, too, will die from crucifixion. As Christ, he will be bond and taken to the place of his martyrdom. As the first prophesy was fulfilled, that of the denial, so this about the death by crucifixion will be fulfilled. Now all the Apostles are assured by Jesus. Peter will never deny his Lord anymore. Peter will always love Jesus more than all the others will. One can build up the obedience to Peter’s faith on this prophecy. What Jesus assures for Peter, He does not assure for those who will be successors of Peter. If they want sheep and lambs to obey his faith, they are to always attest to the Church and the world that their love is true, sincere, and that it always overcomes the love of any other disciple of Jesus. Without this attestation, the Church might even be lost in the confusion and be destroyed in its unity. History attests that it happened. May the Mother of God and our Mother let us grow in the love for Christ.**