**19 JUNE – MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF THE LORD**

**As the day was drawing to a close, the Twelve approached him and said, "Dismiss the crowd so that they can go to the surrounding villages and farms and find lodging and provisions; for we are in a deserted place here." He said to them, "Give them some food yourselves."**

**Jesus is the bread of life. In Jesus, each of his apostle is to make himself bread of life. In communion with the apostle of the Lord, each other member of Christ must be the bread of life for every other man. What Jesus says about Himself, He says it also for his Apostles and for his entire body, although becoming, each one, bread of life in the measure of his sacramental conformation to Jesus the Lord. Let us read some passages of the Gospel according to John and we shall understand:** “**Jesus answered them and said, "Amen, amen, I say to you, you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate the loaves and were filled. Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him the Father, God, has set his seal." So they said to him, "What can we do to accomplish the works of God?" Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in the one he sent."**

**So they said to him, "What sign can you do, that we may see and believe in you? What can you do? Our ancestors ate manna in the desert, as it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" So Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave the bread from heaven; my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." So they said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always." Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst. But I told you that although you have seen (me), you do not believe. Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and I will not reject anyone who comes to me, because I came down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of the one who sent me. And this is the will of the one who sent me, that I should not lose anything of what he gave me, but that I should raise it (on) the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life, and I shall raise him (on) the last day." The Jews murmured about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven," and they said, "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph? Do we not know his father and mother? Then how can he say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" Jesus answered and said to them, "Stop murmuring among yourselves. No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draw him, and I will raise him on the last day. It is written in the prophets: 'They shall all be taught by God.' Everyone who listens to my Father and learns from him comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, but they died; this is the bread that comes down from heaven so that one may eat it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world." (Jn 6, 26-51)**

**In light of this text we can thus translate Jesus’s words: "Give them some food yourselves": “Give the crowd some food yourselves, so as I give myself to eat to every man.” How might the Apostle and every other member in communion with Him give himself to eat to the world? By making himself bread of life in Christ Jesus for the world: bread of the Word turned by him into his life, bread of body and of blood, through his total conformation to Christ the Lord. However, if the Christian does not eat the body of Christ and does not drink his blood to accomplish the life and the death of Christ Jesus in him, he might never be bread of the Word and bread and wine of body and of blood for the world and the own Church. It is the failure of his mystery of being mystery of Jesus.**

**Let us read the text of Lk 9,11b-17**

**He received them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and he healed those who needed to be cured. As the day was drawing to a close, the Twelve approached him and said, "Dismiss the crowd so that they can go to the surrounding villages and farms and find lodging and provisions; for we are in a deserted place here." He said to them, "Give them some food yourselves." They replied, "Five loaves and two fish are all we have, unless we ourselves go and buy food for all these people." Now the men there numbered about five thousand. Then he said to his disciples, "Have them sit down in groups of (about) fifty." They did so and made them all sit down. Then taking the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he said the blessing over them, broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. They all ate and were satisfied. And when the leftover fragments were picked up, they filled twelve wicker baskets.**

**Today it is the Christian who, living of Christ Eucharist, is to turn himself into Word, into body and blood to nourish the world with Christ Jesus. If the Christian separates the Eucharist of Christ from his being true Eucharist for the world, the world remains in hunger and he will die of hunger, as well. May the Mother of God help us. We want to be Eucharist in Christ for the entire world.**