**MONDAY JUNE 27 – XIII WEEK O.T. [C]**

**Another of (his) disciples said to him, "Lord, let me go first and bury my father." But Jesus answered him, "Follow me, and let the dead bury their dead."**

**Today the Lord needs labourers for his harvest. Today He needs and today one is to respond. A moment before one is on earth and one moment later in eternity. If in the moment of before the Gospel has not been announced, a moment later one can also be already in eternity with the risk of the eternal perdition. The immediate response is demanded by its purpose that is the eternal salvation of every man living on earth. Image of immediacy is Gehazi, Elisha’s servant. There is a dead man to rise and one must not waste time:** “**One day Elisha came to Shunem, where there was a woman of influence, who urged him to dine with her. Afterward, whenever he passed by, he used to stop there to dine. So she said to her husband, "I know that he is a holy man of God. Since he visits us often, let us arrange a little room on the roof and furnish it for him with a bed, table, chair, and lamp, so that when he comes to us he can stay there." Sometime later Elisha arrived and stayed in the room overnight. Then he said to his servant Gehazi, "Call this Shunammite woman." He did so, and when she stood before Elisha, he told Gehazi, "Say to her, 'You have lavished all this care on us; what can we do for you? Can we say a good word for you to the king or to the commander of the army?'" She replied, "I am living among my own people." Later Elisha asked, "Can something be done for her?" "Yes!" Gehazi answered. "She has no son, and her husband is getting on in years." "Call her," said Elisha. When she had been called, and stood at the door, Elisha promised, "This time next year you will be fondling a baby son." "Please, my lord," she protested, "you are a man of God; do not deceive your servant." Yet the woman conceived, and by the same time the following year she had given birth to a son, as Elisha had promised. The day came when the child was old enough to go out to his father among the reapers.**

**"My head hurts!" he complained to his father. "Carry him to his mother," the father said to a servant. The servant picked him up and carried him to his mother; he stayed with her until noon, when he died in her lap. The mother took him upstairs and laid him on the bed of the man of God. Closing the door on him, she went out and called to her husband, "Let me have a servant and a donkey. I must go quickly to the man of God, and I will be back." "Why are you going to him today?" he asked. "It is neither the new moon nor the sabbath." But she bade him good-bye, and when the donkey was saddled, said to her servant: "Lead on! Do not stop my donkey unless I tell you to." She kept going till she reached the man of God on Mount Carmel. When he spied her at a distance, the man of God said to his servant Gehazi: "There is the Shunammite! Hurry to meet her, and ask if all is well with her, with her husband, and with the boy." "Greetings," she replied. But when she reached the man of God on the mountain, she clasped his feet. Gehazi came near to push her away, but the man of God said: "Let her alone, she is in bitter anguish; the LORD hid it from me and did not let me know." "Did I ask my lord for a son?" she cried out. "Did I not beg you not to deceive me?" "Gird your loins," Elisha said to Gehazi, "take my staff with you and be off; if you meet anyone, do not greet him, and if anyone greets you, do not answer. Lay my staff upon the boy." But the boy's mother cried out: "As the LORD lives and as you yourself live, I will not release you." So he started to go back with her. Meanwhile, Gehazi had gone on ahead and had laid the staff upon the boy, but there was no sound or sign of life. He returned to meet Elisha and informed him that the boy had not awakened. When Elisha reached the house, he found the boy lying dead. He went in, closed the door on them both, and prayed to the LORD. Then he lay upon the child on the bed, placing his mouth upon the child's mouth, his eyes upon the eyes, and his hands upon the hands. As Elisha stretched himself over the child, the body became warm. He arose, paced up and down the room, and then once more lay down upon the boy, who now sneezed seven times and opened his eyes. Elisha summoned Gehazi and said, "Call the Shunammite." She came at his call, and Elisha said to her, "Take your son." She came in and fell at his feet in gratitude; then she took her son and left the room.” (2 Kg 4, 8-37) The entire heart is in the death and it is to be risen.**

**Let us read the text of Mt 8,18-22**

**When Jesus saw a crowd around him, he gave orders to cross to the other side. A scribe approached and said to him, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go." Jesus answered him, "Foxes have dens and birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to rest his head." Another of (his) disciples said to him, "Lord, let me go first and bury my father." But Jesus answered him, "Follow me, and let the dead bury their dead."**

**When one is called for the kingdom, one must always think of death. When death comes, one does not greet anyone. It comes, takes, carries away. There are no greetings nor hugs nor farewell parties. It immediately comes and one immediately leaves all things and goes. Much more will have to be for the kingdom of God calling at its service. One leaves all things and one disposes himself to be entirely at the service of the Gospel of grace, of light, of life, of truth, of justice, of peace, of true charity. The called to put himself at the service of the kingdom has an entire world to bring into light before him. If the world remains in the darkness and dies, there is no eternal salvation. May the Mother of God help us understand this great mystery.**