**TUESDAY JUNE 28 – XIII WEEK O.T. [C]**

**He said to them, "Why are you terrified, O you of little faith?"**

**Before every difficulty, it is as if the disciple of Jesus had no longer faith. It is as if the history of God with man has never existed. The Sacred History reveals that truly nothing is impossible to God. Before Him, there are no invincible forces. But the Sacred History also reveals that the Lord does not deliver from the desert, one has to go through. One dose not go through it alone. No one would succeed. One goes through it with Him, who makes Himself cloud for us, column of fire, bread, water, flesh, care, protection, defence. Here is what the faith of every disciple of Jesus will have to be: “Anything occurring in my life occurs so that through this event I manifest the world my true faith in the living and true and thus give the greatest glory to Him.” Jesus passes through the way of his crucifixion. What is the faith that He manifests on the Cross Cross: The Psalm manifests it to us:** “**Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever. Let Israel say: “His love endures forever.” Let the house of Aaron say: “His love endures forever.” Let those who fear the Lord say: “His love endures forever.” When hard pressed, I cried to the Lord; he brought me into a spacious place. The Lord is with me; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me? The Lord is with me; he is my helper. I look in triumph on my enemies. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in humans. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes. All the nations surrounded me, but in the name of the Lord I cut them down. They surrounded me on every side, but in the name of the Lord I cut them down. They swarmed around me like bees, but they were consumed as quickly as burning thorns; in the name of the Lord I cut them down.**

**I was pushed back and about to fall, but the Lord helped me. The Lord is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation. Shouts of joy and victory resound in the tents of the righteous: The Lord’s right hand has done mighty things! The Lord’s right hand is lifted high; the Lord’s right hand has done mighty things!” I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the Lord has done. The Lord has chastened me severely, but he has not given me over to death. Open for me the gates of the righteous; I will enter and give thanks to the Lord. This is the gate of the Lord through which the righteous may enter. I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation. The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes. The Lord has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad. Lord, save us! Lord, grant us success! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. From the house of the Lord we bless you. The Lord is God, and he has made his light shine on us. With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession up to the horns of the altar. You are my God, and I will praise you; you are my God, and I will exalt you. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.” (Psal 118, 1-29) ”Jesus passes through the way of the cross. With what faith does He rise up to it? Here it is: “I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the Lord has done. The Lord has chastened me severely, but he has not given me over to death.” Jesus knows that after his intimate torment, He will return into life, He will see the light. He knows that the cross is an obligatory faith to give his Father the greatest glory. That of Jesus is most pure faith.**

**Let us read the text of Mt 8,23-27**

**He got into a boat and his disciples followed him. Suddenly a violent storm came up on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by waves; but he was asleep. They came and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!" He said to them, "Why are you terrified, O you of little faith?" Then he got up, rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was great calm. The men were amazed and said, "What sort of man is this, whom even the winds and the sea obey?"**

**Why is the faith of the disciples little? It is still little for they do not know that he will not always be able to deliver from the storm. He can even deliver in the storm and after the storm. They do not know that with Him, always, even if one had to die, the death is only way to enter an even greater truth and life. Passing through the way of the Cross, Jesus reaches the highest glory. The Cross has not humiliated Him. It has exalted Him above heaven of heavens. The Apostle Paul, too, passes through the way of the death by stoning. Here what the fruit told by him is:** “**We do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction that came to us in the province of Asia; we were utterly weighed down beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life. Indeed, we had accepted within ourselves the sentence of death, that we might trust not in ourselves but in God who raises the dead. He rescued us from such great danger of death, and he will continue to rescue us; in him we have put our hope (that) he will also rescue us again, as you help us with prayer, so that thanks may be given by many on our behalf for the gift granted us through the prayers of many.” (2 Cor 1, 8-11) God does not come to deliver us from our history, but so that we live our history with purity of faith, namely knowing that lived history in obedience to his Word, it will always be for us a principle of a greater life, even if it apparently seems to be history of death. Death is only for one moment. Life is for eternity. The passage through death is always necessary to produce a greater life. Here is what Jesus says: “Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit.” May the Mother of God and our Mother help us live from faith to faith, as the Holy Spirit teaches us.**