**WEDNESDAY JUNE 29 – XIII WEEK O.T. [C]**

**SAINT APOSTLES PETER AND PAUL**

**And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it.**

**People do not know who Christ Jesus is. Actually, the Lord has not revealed to them in the fullness of his truth yet. So far He has always made himself known as a great prophet, but also as a great doer of mighty deeds. Mighty deeds that are greater than those performed by Moses. Greater than those of Elijah and Elisha. A comparison between the two resurrections will help us find put what the greatness of Jesus the Lord consists of:** “**Some time later the son of the mistress of the house fell sick, and his sickness grew more severe until he stopped breathing. So she said to Elijah, "Why have you done this to me, O man of God? Have you come to me to call attention to my guilt and to kill my son?" "Give me your son," Elijah said to her. Taking him from her lap, he carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his own bed. He called out to the LORD: "O LORD, my God, will you afflict even the widow with whom I am staying by killing her son?" Then he stretched himself out upon the child three times and called out to the LORD: "O LORD, my God, let the life breath return to the body of this child." The LORD heard the prayer of Elijah; the life breath returned to the child's body and he revived. Taking the child, Elijah brought him down into the house from the upper room and gave him to his mother. "See!" Elijah said to her, "your son is alive." "Now indeed I know that you you are a man of God," the woman replied to Elijah. "The word of the LORD comes truly from your mouth." (1 Kg 17, 17-24)** “**Soon afterward he journeyed to a city called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd accompanied him. As he drew near to the gate of the city, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. A large crowd from the city was with her. When the Lord saw her, he was moved with pity for her and said to her, "Do not weep." He stepped forward and touched the coffin; at this the bearers halted, and he said, "Young man, I tell you, arise!" The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, exclaiming, "A great prophet has arisen in our midst," and "God has visited his people." This report about him spread through the whole of Judea and in all the surrounding region.” (Lk 7, 11-17) One word is enough for Jesus. Nothing else.**

**Peter acknowledges and confesses that Jesus is the Christ of God. Jesus tells him that his confession is for revelation of the Father: "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father.” You do not know me for empirical science and not even for deductive science. You know me because the Father has put these words on your mouth. Peter knows who Jesus is for revelation. He still knows nothing about his passion, nothing about his death by crucifixion, nothing about his glorious resurrection. He still knows nothing about his mystery. To him, though, Jesus makes a promise: “And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven.” Actually, the promises are two. First promise: “The gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it.” The promise deals with the Church. The lord has one only Church: that He will build on Peter. That Church that will always be built up on Peter is the Church of Christ Jesus. On this Church will the gates of the netherworld prevail. This Church will keep itself in its most pure truth. This Church will always produce fruits of eternal life. The power of the Holy Spirit will always breathe in it. This means that every Church, if it wishes to be Church of Christ Jesus must let itself be built by Christ on Peter. Built on Peter, the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail.**

**Let us read the text of Mt 16,13-19**

**When Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus said to him in reply, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."**

**The second promise deals with the keys: “I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." What is the truth enclosed in these words? Here is what the ministry of the keys consists of: always tying the truth of Christ to the purest truth. But also tying every lie about Christ to falsity. Peter must always show what the true Christ to accept is. He must always say to us what the true Gospel to live is. He must always sever truth and falsity, light and darkness with a clear cut. He must always say: This is the true Christ. This is not the true Christ. Since history will always be full of false Christ, he must always exercise the ministry of the keys and say: This is not the true Christ. This is a false Christ. The true Christ is what I announce to you. May the Mother of God makes us be Church always built on Peter.**