**FRIDAY JULY 08 – XIV WEEK O.T. [C]**

**When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say. You will be given at that moment what you are to say. For it will not be you who speak but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.**

**Paul is in the Sanhedrin of Jerusalem: A certain sentence of death is waiting for him. The Lord does not need a martyr now. He needs instead a missionary, an apostle who continues to preach the Gospel. Here is with which words the Holy Spirit let him speak. Through these words he has his life safe: Paul looked intently at the Sanhedrin and said, "My brothers, I have conducted myself with a perfectly clear conscience before God to this day." The high priest Ananias ordered his attendants to strike his mouth. Then Paul said to him, "God will strike you, you whitewashed wall. Do you indeed sit in judgment upon me according to the law and yet in violation of the law order me to be struck?" The attendants said, "Would you revile God's high priest?" Paul answered, "Brothers, I did not realize he was the high priest. For it is written, 'You shall not curse a ruler of your people.'" Paul was aware that some were Sadducees and some Pharisees, so he called out before the Sanhedrin, "My brothers, I am a Pharisee, the son of Pharisees; (I) am on trial for hope in the resurrection of the dead." When he said this, a dispute broke out between the Pharisees and Sadducees, and the group became divided. For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection or angels or spirits, while the Pharisees acknowledge all three. A great uproar occurred, and some scribes belonging to the Pharisee party stood up and sharply argued, "We find nothing wrong with this man. Suppose a spirit or an angel has spoken to him?" The dispute was so serious that the commander, afraid that Paul would be torn to pieces by them, ordered his troops to go down and rescue him from their midst and take him into the compound. The following night the Lord stood by him and said, "Take courage. For just as you have borne witness to my cause in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness in Rome." (Act 23, 1-11)**

**Jesus is in the Sanhedrin. The sentence of death was written for Him. Now it is about to find an accusation that is according to the Law. The high priest asks him to say under oath if He is Christ. The Holy Spirit cannot let Jesus be presented before Pilate with the accusation to be the King of Jews. Pilate could have condemned Him on the foundation of this confession. Instead Jesus replies that He is the Son of man and in Him the prophecy of Daniel is fulfilled:** “**The chief priests and the entire Sanhedrin kept trying to obtain false testimony against Jesus in order to put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. Finally two came forward who stated, "This man said, 'I can destroy the temple of God and within three days rebuild it.'" The high priest rose and addressed him, "Have you no answer? What are these men testifying against you?" But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him, "I order you to tell us under oath before the living God whether you are the Messiah, the Son of God." Jesus said to him in reply, "You have said so. But I tell you: From now on you will see 'the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power' and 'coming on the clouds of heaven.'" Then the high priest tore his robes and said, "He has blasphemed! What further need have we of witnesses? You have now heard the blasphemy; what is your opinion?" They said in reply, "He deserves to die!" (My 26, 59-66) Thus replying, no one might say that Jesus has revealed his messianic royalty. They can accuse Him before Pilate to be the Son of man. But here one leaves the political field and enter an exclusively supernatural, divine field that goes beyond politics.**

**Let us read the text of Mt 10,16-23**

**"Behold, I am sending you like sheep in the midst of wolves; so be shrewd as serpents and simple as doves. But beware of people, for they will hand you over to courts and scourge you in their synagogues, and you will be led before governors and kings for my sake as a witness before them and the pagans. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say. You will be given at that moment what you are to say. For it will not be you who speak but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will hand over brother to death, and the father his child; children will rise up against parents and have them put to death. You will be hated by all because of my name, but whoever endures to the end will be saved. When they persecute you in one town, flee to another. Amen, I say to you, you will not finish the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.**

**Not only when we are on trial should we ask the Holy Spirit to put the right word on our mouth. Even if when one speaks before every other man it is necessary that we pray the Holy Spirit to give us a Word of most pure truth capable to enter the heart of the one who is listening to us, pierce and conquer him to Christ the Lord. Shame that today the Christian speak from foolishness, form ignorance, from wicked and evil word. No unholy word comes to us from the Holy Spirit. It is a word of sin that condemns us on the last day. Here is why of each Word not spoken in the Holy Spirit we must give account to the Lord. We could have saved a heart with a Word and we leave him in death because of our foolishness. May the Mother of God obtain for us the grace to always speak with words of Holy Spirit.**