**WEDNESDAY JULY 20 – XVI WEEK O. T. [C]**

**And he spoke to them at length in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and birds came and ate it up.**

**In the Old Scripture, and particularly in the Psalms, the parables are the great deeds, the great signs, the great mighty deeds that the Lord has fulfilled for the salvation of his people. Why are these mighty deeds, signs, miracles called parable? Because one always needs the faith to accept and understand them. If one is without faith, they will always be thought as a fruit of the nature and one will never raise to the most pure knowledge of the truth of our God who is the Author of all this mighty deeds performed for the salvation of his people.**

**“My people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth with a parable; I will utter hidden things, things from of old— things we have heard and known, things our ancestors have told us. We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done. He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our ancestors to teach their children, so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands. They would not be like their ancestors— a stubborn and rebellious generation, whose hearts were not loyal to God, whose spirits were not faithful to him. The men of Ephraim, though armed with bows, turned back on the day of battle; they did not keep God’s covenant and refused to live by his law. They forgot what he had done, the wonders he had shown them. He did miracles in the sight of their ancestors in the land of Egypt, in the region of Zoan. He divided the sea and led them through; he made the water stand up like a wall. He guided them with the cloud by day and with light from the fire all night. He split the rocks in the wilderness and gave them water as abundant as the seas; he brought streams out of a rocky crag and made water flow down like rivers. But they continued to sin against him, rebelling in the wilderness against the Most High. They willfully put God to the test by demanding the food they craved. They spoke against God; they said, “Can God really spread a table in the wilderness? True, he struck the rock, and water gushed out, streams flowed abundantly, but can he also give us bread? Can he supply meat for his people?” When the Lord heard them, he was furious; his fire broke out against Jacob, and his wrath rose against Israel, for they did not believe in God or trust in his deliverance. Yet he gave a command to the skies above and opened the doors of the heavens; he rained down manna for the people to eat, he gave them the grain of heaven. Human beings ate the bread of angels; he sent them all the food they could eat. He let loose the east wind from the heavens and by his power made the south wind blow. He rained meat down on them like dust, birds like sand on the seashore. He made them come down inside their camp, all around their tents. They ate till they were gorged— he had given them what they craved.** **In spite of all this, they kept on sinning; in spite of his wonders, they did not believe.” (Cf. Sal 78, 1-72).**

**The parables of Jesus are sometimes the narration of a miracle of love that is always fulfilled when one believes in his Word. Other times they are the announcement of a miracle that will always be fulfilled when man obeys each of his commandment. Let us take for instance the Parables of the kingdom narrated in the Chapter XIII of the Gospel according to Matthew. They reveal the great miracles that will always happen when man accomplishes what is narrated by Jesus in the Parables. If the disciple of Jesus sows in the furrows of history the Word of the Gospel, the Word of Jesus, the Word of the Father, according to purity of truth and of wisdom placed in it by the Holy Spirit, the Word will always produce a fruit of eternal life. It will not produce much fruit, but a part of it will always give its fruits of conversion and of eternal life. The miracle will always be fulfilled. However, the miracle is the fruit of our faith and of our obedience. Do we sow the Word? It will always produce a miracle of faith, of conversion, of new creation, of eternal life. Do we not sow the Word? No conversion will be made. It will not be made because we have not believed, we have not done according to the commandment given to us by Christ Jesus.**

**Let us read the text of Mt 13,1-9**

**On that day, Jesus went out of the house and sat down by the sea. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat down, and the whole crowd stood along the shore. And he spoke to them at length in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky ground, where it had little soil. It sprang up at once because the soil was not deep, and when the sun rose it was scorched, and it withered for lack of roots. Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it. But some seed fell on rich soil, and produced fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold. Whoever has ears ought to hear."**

**Not only does one not sow the Gospel today. One also says that it must not be sowed. What is the fruit of our non-faith and of our non- obedience? We condemn the world to remain in the darkness and in the death. May the Mother of God come and make us obedient to every Word of Christ Jesus. Without the sowing of the Word, there are no fruits of life.**