**FRIDAY JULY 22- XVI WEEK O.T. [C]**

**SAINT MARY MAGDALENE**

**She thought it was the gardener and said to him, "Sir, if you carried him away, tell me where you laid him, and I will take him." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni," which means Teacher.**

**In the Gospel according to John, Mary of Magdala is the first person to whom He appeared, let himself be seen as Risen. She is placed by the Disciple Jesus loved as a model of true faith. Peter and John do not seek the Lord. They stopped before the truth of the Lord. He is risen. This truth is deduced by the empty tomb and the order reigning in it. The deduction by reasoning, even though it is way of true faith, is not enough to keep the journey of faith. Our faith, indeed, is not founded only on the truth, but also on the direct knowledge of the Person of our God and Lord. This knowledge happens, is fulfilled and perfected with the grace of the Sacraments. It is in the Sacraments that the Holy Spirit makes us become one only thing with Christ the Lord, conforming to Him, making us dwell in Him, becoming one only body, one only life with Him. The meeting with the living Christ also happens with every disciple of Jesus who really, truly, substantially shows Christ in his life through his christified nature. Poor are all those Christian confessions in which the source of grace that the Sacraments are lacks. Indeed, from the pierced side of Christ on the cross not only the water, the Holy Spirit, came out, but also the blood, namely the grace one draws in the seven channels that the Sacraments of salvation are. However, where grace lacks, also the fullness of the Holy Spirit lacks, because the fullness of the conformation to Christ that is together grace and truth lacks. For this reason, the true redemption, the true salvation, the true life can be drawn and lived only in the Church, one, holy, Catholic, apostolic. Only in this Church one gives Christ in fullness, one gives Christ truth, grace, light, eternal life, justice, perfect holiness. Only in this Church one generates people fully conformed to Christ Jesus. It is the mystery that one accepts in the faith and that one lives in the faith. Whoever falls from faith, because he fell from grace and from truth, might never neither accept nor profess this mystery in which is the eternal life for every man. But who wants the Church today? Who preaches the Church and its necessary belonging to it becoming body of Christ and living through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the Church, through the Church, with the Church today? If one is not visible Church, one is neither invisible body of Jesus the Lord. Christ Jesus and his Church are one only body, not two separate bodies, but one only body. Dividing Christ from the Church is leaving this mystery of true salvation. One takes paths of perdition. Christ Jesus must always be sought with an ever greater thirst and an ever stronger hunger.**

**Let us read the text of Jn 20,1-2.11-18**

**On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him."** **But Mary stayed outside the tomb weeping. And as she wept, she bent over into the tomb and saw two angels in white sitting there, one at the head and one at the feet where the body of Jesus had been. And they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken my Lord, and I don't know where they laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus there, but did not know it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" She thought it was the gardener and said to him, "Sir, if you carried him away, tell me where you laid him, and I will take him." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni," which means Teacher. Jesus said to her, "Stop holding on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and tell them, 'I am going to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary of Magdala went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and what he told her.**

**What must Mary of Magdala teach us today and always, until the end of history? She says to us that one can read all the old and new Commentaries of the Holy Scripture, all the Theological Summae, all the books of the world dealing with Christ Jesus. One can also attend all the universities of Theology and all the teachers of the sacred science, but if the christification of the disciple of Jesus in the Sacraments of the Church does not occur and one does not seek a personal relation with Jesus the Lord, the truth alone cannot lead the Christian life to the way of true salvation. One can take the way of salvation that is becoming more christified in Christ every day, living through Christ and with Christ, only if the Holy Spirit prompts us to always seek the Lord, more and more becoming his life, though. One sees the Lord, one knows the Lord, one becomes one only thing with the Lord, one can go to the disciples, namely to the Church, to announce the Lord to it. Then, as children of the Church, one goes into the world to call every other man to know the Lord to become one only body, one only life with Him. May the Mother of God help us. We want to be one only life with Christ Jesus in his body.**