**FRIDAY JULY 29 – XVII WEEK O. T. [C]**

**SAINT MARTHA**

**Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."**

**The heart of the Gospel according to John is the truth about Christ Jesus, the only Son of God for eternity and divinity. The Son of God who makes himself flesh and comes to dwell among us. This truth is thus announced in the Prologue: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.** **And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. From his fullness we have all received, grace in place of grace, because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. The only Son, God, who is at the Father's side, has revealed him. (Cf. Gv 1,1-18) Divinity and eternity are most pure essence of the truth of Jesus. He is not a man who is made God. The world is filled with men who make themselves God or equal to God. But only the Begotten Son of the Father, the Eternal Word, God in the beginning, God with God, was made man, true man. Christ Jesus is this divine and eternal truth.**

**Eternity, divinity, sonship of Jesus for eternal generation from the Father make the difference with every other man. Every other man is son of Abraham. Before being son of Abraham, Christ Jesus is the Creator of him. In the fullness of time, Jesus has become son of Abraham without contracting his heavy heritage, though, fruit of his sin. Since every other man, whoever he is, little or great, learned or unlearned, rich or poor, has inherited Abraham’s heritage, needs to be redeemed and saved through Christ, in Christ, with Christ. This eternal and divine difference must be preached today more than yesterday. Today one wants to spread a veil of silence on Christ Jesus. One does not want Him to be announced in the fullness of his truth. Not even does one want to affirm that every other founder of religion, whoever he is, was created by Christ in view of Christ and if one wishes to enter the true life he, too, must bend his knee before the One who is the only name by which we are to be saved. Putting Christ Jesus under a tent of silence, we do nothing but condemning the world to the great war of ignorance, idolatry, immorality, injustice, bad habit and licentiousness. Man is abandoned to the worst instincts. Whoever does not preach Christ Jesus is the greatest man’s enemy. He condemns him to remain in his death.**

**Let us read the text of Jn 11,19-27**

**And many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him; but Mary sat at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. (But) even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise." Martha said to him, "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."**

**Humanity is an immense lake of sin sustained by a very frail wall. The more we accumulate sins, the more the lake rises and the more the wall is at the risk of breakage. Now only Christ Jesus takes away the sin of the world and He alone gives the grace and the Holy Spirit helping us not to sin. If Christ is not placed powerfully in our history, the lake will overflow with sins and the catastrophe will be inevitable. The dam will not withstand and we will be devastated by the deluge of evil that will fall upon us. The Father, God, the Creator, the Lord, has given only Christ Jesus the world as a remedy against sin. There are no other remedies. Since today one worships a false Christ, one ha salso a false remedy against sin. But every other remedy does nothing but opening the gate to sin, instead of closing it. But the one who must bring Christ powerfully in the history is every member of the body of Christ. How will one bring Christ into history? Bringing himself as true body of Christ, as his true Word, his true life, always led and moved by his Holy Spirit. The Christian is the visible Christ and humanity needs the visible Christ today. However, the visible Christ will have to be conformed to the invisible Christ in all things, conforming to Him in willing and in doing, always, in everything. Without the true faith in Christ, this conformation is impossible and consequently the Christian becomes a false remedy against the sin of the world. Our deeds and our words attest whether we are false or true remedy against sin. If we worship a false Christ Jesus, we will always be a false remedy against evil. Martha’s faith in Christ is almost perfect. What does it lack to reach its perfection? The addition the Apostle John makes at the end of his Gospel: “Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of (his) disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may (come to) believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name.” (Jn 20,30-31). May the Mother of Jesus make us of most pure faith in Christ the Lord.**