**SATURDAY JULY 30 – XVII WEEK O.T. [C]**

**Prompted by her mother, she said, "Give me here on a platter the head of John the Baptist." The king was distressed, but because of his oaths and the guests who were present, he ordered that it be given, and he had John beheaded in the prison.**

**A huge river, an overwhelming river, a river that devastates and creates great disasters is made up of single drops of water flowing together. These drops become the strength of each other. Whoever wants the river to become weaker is obliged in every moment never to become part of it. If one has become it for any reason, one is called to dissociate without delaying. The first truth of moral order teaches that every drop is responsible of all the disaster the other drops cause. One is responsible since it cooperates effectively to give strength of devastation to the other drops. The co-responsibility in evil is always *in solidum*. One is responsible of all the evil produced in together in history, for one is true body of sin. Likewise, the responsibility is of the entire human person: body, soul and spirit and the entire human person, if one is not converted, will end up into eternal darkness, thus is said of the one who becomes or lets himself be made body of sin. The entire body is responsible of all evil.**

**Who kills John the Baptist? The powerful body of sin ruling at the court of King Herod. Herod, Herodias, Salome, the guests and also the guards are part of this body of sin. Even if the will of killing John the Baptist is only of Herodias, this evil and cruel woman succeeded in her aim, at the reason of the body of sin triumphing in the palace of the king. Herod is lustful. This lust leads him to foolishness and ignorance. Salome is lustful and provocative as well. She prompts the king to swear an oath fruit of foolishness and ignorance, too. Foolish and ignorant is the king, foolish and ignorant are his words. Even the guests or nobles of his kingdom belong to the body of sin. They say nothing to the king. They let him to be overwhelmed by his sin. But Salome, as well, is responsible of the death of John the Baptist. She demands his head. Finally, the guard who has beheaded him is responsible, too. He should have disobeyed the command of the king as well. It is true: when one becomes part of a body of sin, everyone is personally responsible of all evil that the body does. Of course, the responsibility changes from person to person, but everyone is responsible of all evil that the body of sin does. Today, having man declared that the sin no longer exists, no one considers himself responsible of anything. Instead, one must strongly affirm that not only does evil exist, evil is fulfilled and one must give account to God of every evil fulfilled today, in time and tomorrow in eternity. One must give account of every word, thought, deed, omission. Today no one thinks of how many damages the omissions make in the world. Instead, they are a river that overflows and creates unrepairable damages. For instance, the omission, today, of preaching Christ Jesus and his mystery of salvation that is the right of every man to know. If it is a right, no one can deprive one only man of this right that the Lord has given him. The omission in the announcement of the Gospel is condemnation of a man to always remain in death. One moves to life through Christ in Christ.**

**Let us read the text of Mt 14,1-12**

**At that time Herod the tetrarch heard of the reputation of Jesus and said to his servants, "This man is John the Baptist. He has been raised from the dead; that is why mighty powers are at work in him." Now Herod had arrested John, bound (him), and put him in prison on account of Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip, for John had said to him, "It is not lawful for you to have her." Although he wanted to kill him, he feared the people, for they regarded him as a prophet. But at a birthday celebration for Herod, the daughter of Herodias performed a dance before the guests and delighted Herod so much that he swore to give her whatever she might ask for. Prompted by her mother, she said, "Give me here on a platter the head of John the Baptist." The king was distressed, but because of his oaths and the guests who were present, he ordered that it be given, and he had John beheaded in the prison. His head was brought in on a platter and given to the girl, who took it to her mother. His disciples came and took away the corpse and buried him; and they went and told Jesus.**

**We are warned by this passage of the Gospel: no one who opens the gate to sin in his life should think that the might then close it, as he pleases. If one opens the gate, one no longer closes it almost always and one proceeds from sin to sin. David opened the gate to an impure gaze. Because of this gaze, he became adulterer, because of the adultery he became a murderer. Herod has opened the gate to the sin of adultery, then he lets himself be conquered by impure thoughts, he moves into the great foolishness of a nonsense oath, he became a murderer. He has brought sin in his house, now sin governs it and keeps it slave. Severe warning for every man. When opens the gates to sin, it then governs and dominates us. It makes us its slaves. Eve opened the gates to sin, she turned herself into “Satan” for Adam. Adam, too, opened the gates to sin and they will remain opened until the days of Parusia. The consequences of this opening will be eternal, though. The eternal death is most pure faith for us. From the eternal death, we are delivered through our conversion to Christ Jesus and through our most pure faith in the Gospel. May the Mother of God come to our help. May She obtain for us the grace of living in the Gospel.**