**FRIDAY AUGUST 05 – XVIII WEEK O. T. [C]**

**"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”**

**The denial that Jesus asks whoever wants to be his disciple must be considered as an explant. The disciple of Christ Jesus must explant the heart of stone from his chest and put Jesus’s heart in its place. He must explant every thought from his mind and put Jesus’s thoughts in their place. He must explant his will from his soul and put the will of the Heavenly Father in its place. He must also explant his entire body to become true body of Christ Jesus. Until even just one of these explants and transplants is not completed, no one can consider himself true disciple of Jesus the Lord. He lacks in something of his Teacher. But are these explants enough so that one may consider himself perfect disciples? No, they are not. These explants are not enough. They are only the beginning of the journey. Then one must progress from faith to faith letting ourselves be guided and led by the Holy Spirit to the entire truth that is endless and eternal.**

**The faith not governed by the truth of the Holy Spirit, not enlightened by Him, is a foolish, ignorant faith, deprived of every truth. Unfortunately today faith is attacked by the virus of heresy that has become resistant to any medicine. With this virus into soul, into spirit, into thoughts, in mind, in heart, it is impossible to recover, also because it is exposed to every contagion of heavier and more lethal viruses. Jesus is the only man of history who knows God. The only man who comes from Eternity in reason of his divine Person and of his divine nature. He is the only man who knows man because the Father has made Him through his mean. He is the only man who loves man, for he poured out his blood from the Cross for him. He is the only man who has risen to the life of the after with his body turned into light and clothed with glory, immortality, incorruptibility. He is the only man who is the Living one today. He is the only man who has the government of heaven and of earth. He is the only Judge of universe. Today Christ is unclothed of every truth and this is why our faith is vain. It is a faith not governed and not moved by the truth of the Spirit.**

**The kingdom of God is given “under conditions.” It is not an obligation for anyone to enter the kingdom. It is an offer of conditional eternal life. “If you wish to be my disciple, if you wish to follow me, deny yourself, take up your cross and fallow me.” If you wish to accept my proposal of eternal life, you must deny your thoughts and take up the cross of my thoughts. You must leave your will and take up the cross of my will. You must abandon your ways and take up the cross of my ways. You must forget your faith and each of your scientific, philosophical, anthropological, psychological, cultural belief or of any other nature and take up the obedience to my belief, to my faith. If you want to. If you do not want to, go on your own way. But do not think of being my disciple or that tomorrow you will enjoy the eternal life that I offered you under condition. All the evils of the Christian religion today are born of the abolishment of the condition. One wants the sacraments without any conditions. One wants any other service without any conditions. One wants to be Christian without Gospel. One wants to follow Christ without any obligations. One wants the eternal life without the obedience to the Word. One wants the benefits of Christ, without taking up the burdens of the discipleship. It is as if a farmer wanted to reap without sowing and to gather without reaping. One sows, one reaps, one gathers. Even the soil gives its precious fruits under condition. Today the condition has been abolished in every field. One wants everything, but without any condition.**

**Let us read the text of Mt 16,24-28**

**Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Or what can one give in exchange for his life? For the Son of Man will come with his angels in his Father's glory, and then he will repay everyone according to his conduct. Amen, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."**

**Jesus is explicit in his covenant: “You give me your life on earth so that I am crucified in you and I will give you my eternal life.” We have not stipulated this covenant with God, but with Christ Jesus. Our unique relation is with the Crucified God who asked us if we want to be his body, his life, so that He in us may always be crucified for the salvation of the world. Then He will introduce us to his Father, to hand ourselves over to Him for eternity. If we lose this truth of ours – handed over to Christ so that Christ hands himself over to every Cross for the redemption of his brothers – we are no longer of Christ. But if we are no longer of Christ, the covenant is off. We can also be of Christ Crucified any longer, but we must also accept no longer to be acknowledged by Him before his Father. And since only his knowledge allows us to draw near to the Father, we will be turned away from the Father and sent into eternal darkness. Faith is terribly consequential, for it is founded not on an abstract truth, but on a concrete deal: “You give me your life in time, I will give you my blessed eternity.” May the Mother of God obtain for us to be faithful to the covenant.**