**WEDNESDAY AUGUST 10 – XIX WEEK O.T. [C]**

**SAINT LAWRENCE MARTYR**

**Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit.**

**Dying to live; living to die: never has a man spoken so. He alone, Christ the Lord, has such a unique language. His truth is the cross and it is the death. There is no possibility of doubt, of hesitation, of argument. With the Son of God, the Cross is lifted on the nations and it becomes the sign of the truth of God and of his love. With Him, life is in the death, it is in the obedience until the death and to the death of cross. Christ is true in his truth of eternal salvation on the cross, under the ground, while he dies. His is a gift of love to man. The cross is the tree that bears much fruit. Divine truth for us all. Whoever falls to the ground is lost and in losing himself bears, not prior, but after the death, in an obedience to the Lord our God for the service of salvation. The cross is scorn, mockery, temptation, humiliation, sorrow, suffering, gift of life. The earth bathed in the blood of the martyrs bears fruits of eternal life. But it has already been bathed in the blood of God. However, the blood of God must be blended with the blood of those who will believe today, tomorrow, always. Without the blood of Christ and of the Christians, there is no salvation. The salvation is only in the blood. The blood is in the death, on the cross, in the tomb. The Father will honour the one who loses his life for Christ Jesus in an obedience similar to his one. He will honour him on earth through the strength that comes from the Holy Spirit to fulfil our mission; in the Kingdom of Heaven, when the Father receives us in his feast of eternal life. The cross and the death are the way and the eternal life their abundant fruit. Whoever is on the cross and lives for it, for obedience to God, this one is from God, comes from Him, for he was made by Him and goes to Him. He was called to that by the Holy Spirit, when He has embodied him in Christ. If the Christian is in Christ, between the body and the members there cannot be any difference. Christ falls to the ground and dies, He bears much fruit. The Christian falls to the ground and dies, he will also bear fruits of eternal life. Christ, chief of the body and body himself, saves the entire body that is the Church. The man, according to his gift and charisma, will also bear fruits of salvation for the eternal life according to his call. Our fruit is not in our doing, in our going, in our frenzy. If the fruit is given by our death, death is only in the obedience to God. The Christian only seeks the dying according to the will of God for the salvation of the world. The salvation is in the offering of our life to God so that his will may be fulfilled. The fulfilment of the will of God in the death saves the world. There are no other ways, other possibilities, other means. According to God, there is one only way to save man: falling to the ground, being blended with the clay, losing one’s own identity and consistency, be made earth in earth, being rotten and annihilate oneself. When the wheat is blended to the soil and it is making it something of itself, at that moment the little plant that brings with itself the abundance of the gift of the Lord sprouts. Life is in death, being is in losing oneself, the fruit is in being faded away. This was the life of Christ, of the Martyrs, of the Saints. Those are the trees with the fruits of eternal salvation fro the world. Man honours and worships the Lord in obedience an in service. The Father of Heaven honours today and in eternal life. He will give the Kingdom of Heaven, the reward of the blessed eternity that will have no end. Nothing for all, the days of eternity, death for life, the service for the glory of heaven and the honour of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. From the heart of those who will know, with the strength of the Holy Spirit, with the charity of Christ, and in his example, how to fall to the ground, to die, to abandon themselves to the Lord; from that heart, that offers itself in sacrifice of oblation in total obedience to God for the fulfilment of his will, that tree of the many fruits will sprout. From death, the Lord will let the life of the world arise, as for Christ, for the Martyrs, for the Saints from whose offering of life in death a new life is born.**

**Let us read the text of Jn 12,24-26**

**Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me.**

**The one who offers himself to God do not look at the fruits. He seeks his offering and his obedience, his sacrifice and his death. In the offering, the entire man changes. His thoughts, his ideas, his will change. He does not think, does not want, does not see. The one who wants and sees is the Lord. But the Lord sees and wants our total offering and our oblation to Him. He understands the entire Gospel under the light of his death. The key to reading is that cross lifted on the Golgotha on the Friday of the Passover and that, since then, it is lifted in every place by the Christian who wants to be as his Lord: obedient to God. Without cross, there is no Gospel, there is no Word of God, there is no Christian reading of the history of salvation. The cross of Christ combines heaven and earth, Old and New Testament. It is the cornerstone that gives stability to every construction according to God. it is the way that the Lord has traced for us. I am the way: way of cross until death in the obedience to the Father of heaven. He is the way of everybody and of each one for the salvation of the world. May the Mother of God help us walk this way.**