**THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 01 – XXII WEEK O.T. [C]**

**Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." When they brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed him.**

**When Jesus performs a miracle, history always comes to his rescue. Indeed, history always attests that what happens is a true miracle. Let us observe then what happened before and what happens then. Simon spends the entire night to fish and in the end he pulls down the empty nets. It is as if fish was disappeared in the lake. He neither catches one. We might say that the like is lifeless. Another Dead Sea. Jesus gives Simon a command: "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Let us observe well. Their nets must be thrown for a catch. Those nets that had come back empty. If Jesus had told them to throw other nets, someone could have thought that the earlier nets were not suitable. Then it would not be fault of the lake that is empty, but of the unsuitable nets. Instead, they must throw the same nets of the night. As they had gone into deep water at night, so also now they have to go into deep water. There must not be any change, any modification. Here is the reply that Simon gives to Jesus: "Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets." Simona confirms the history. The lake is empty. There is no fish. If there is no fish, I would never have come back to fish. I throw the nets only because you have told me that and I know that the Word is true on your mouth. You never command to do a useless thing. I am certain that for your Word and for your obedience the nets will be filled. The Lord always calls history as a witness. Where history cannot testify, there the Lord does not work. Man may take the merit of what happens. Instead, the glory is always to be given to the Lord.**

**Here is an example of great witness of history: “After this, Ben-hadad, king of Aram, mustered his whole army and laid siege to Samaria. Because of the siege the famine in Samaria was so severe that an ass's head sold for eighty pieces of silver, and a fourth of a kab of wild onion for five pieces of silver. One day, as the king of Israel was walking on the city wall, a woman cried out to him, "Help, my lord king!" "No," he replied, "the LORD help you! Where could I find help for you: from the threshing floor or the winepress?" Then the king asked her, "What is your trouble?" She replied: "This woman said to me, 'Give up your son that we may eat him today; then tomorrow we will eat my son.' So we boiled my son and ate him. The next day I said to her, 'Now give up your son that we may eat him.' But she hid her son." When the king heard the woman's words, he tore his garments. And as he was walking on the wall, the people saw that he was wearing sackcloth underneath, next to his skin. "May God do thus and so to me," the king exclaimed, "if the head of Elisha, son of Shaphat, stays on him today!" Meanwhile, Elisha was sitting in his house in conference with the elders. The king had sent a man ahead before he himself should come to him. Elisha had said to the elders: "Do you know that this son of a murderer is sending someone to cut off my head? When the messenger comes, see that you close the door and hold it fast against him. His master's footsteps are echoing behind him." While Elisha was still speaking, the king came down to him and said, "This evil is from the LORD. Why should I trust in the LORD any longer?"** **Elisha said: "Hear the word of the LORD! Thus says the LORD, 'At this time tomorrow a seah of fine flour will sell for a shekel, and two seahs of barley for a shekel, in the market of Samaria.'" But the adjutant on whose arm the king leaned, answered the man of God, "Even if the LORD were to make windows in heaven, how could this happen?" "You shall see it with your own eyes," Elisha said, "but you shall not eat of it." (Cf. 2Kg 6,1-7,20) History was of hunger, of so much hunger to prompt the women to eat their children. What does Elisha say: Tomorrow, in town, flour and barley will be cheap. Everyone can eat to satiety.**

**Let us read the text of Lk 5,1-11**

**While the crowd was pressing in on Jesus and listening to the word of God, he was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret. He saw two boats there alongside the lake; the fishermen had disembarked and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, he asked him to put out a short distance from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. After he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Simon said in reply, "Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets." When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish and their nets were tearing. They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come to help them. They came and filled both boats so that they were in danger of sinking. When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at the knees of Jesus and said, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man." For astonishment at the catch of fish they had made seized him and all those with him, and likewise James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners of Simon. Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." When they brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed him.**

**The miracle is true miracle. Now Simon knows that tomorrow, if he wants to catch souls for the kingdom of heaven, he will always have to lower the net of the Word of Jesus. If he sows the Gospel, he will catch many souls. If he sows his word, the nets of the kingdom will always be empty. May the Mother of God and our Mother help us so that we sow only and always the Word of Jesus.**