**THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 08 – XXIII WEEK O.T. [C]**

**NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

**"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."**

**Before the Lord shows us the way in a particular, special situation of our life, there is some space so that our mind argues, reasons, evaluates, discerns, decides, always respecting the letter and the truth that the Holy Spirit has placed in each Word of God, though. Joseph finds himself before an event that overwhelms his life. Mary is waiting a child. He decides to get out of Mary’s life, choosing the most righteous and holiest way: that of divorcing her quietly. His choice respects the will of God contained in the Scripture. But is this the will of God for his today, too? Should he divorce her or should he take her as his wife? As a righteous and god-fearing man, he considers the ways so that Mary does not suffer any damage neither moral and nor physical from his decision. Thinking the greatest good to do from our heart in every moment of our existence is a holy thing. However, we must always ask the Holy Spirit if this is the good wanted and thought by the Lord for us. This is why, always, every decision, even the holiest one, must arise from the prayer, must always be accompanied and also followed by the prayer. Everything must begin in the prayer and everything must continue and fulfilled in the prayer.**

**Let us read the text of Mt 1,1-16.18-23**

**The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham became the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers. Judah became the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar. Perez became the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, Ram the father of Amminadab. Amminadab became the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab. Boaz became the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth. Obed became the father of Jesse, Jesse the father of David the king. David became the father of Solomon, whose mother had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon became the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, Abijah the father of Asaph. Asaph became the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, Joram the father of Uzziah. Uzziah became the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, Ahaz the father of Hezekiah. Hezekiah became the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amos, Amos the father of Josiah. Josiah became the father of Jechoniah and his brothers at the time of the Babylonian exile. After the Babylonian exile, Jechoniah became the father of Shealtiel, Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, Zerubbabel the father of Abiud. Abiud became the father of Eliakim, Eliakim the father of Azor, Azor the father of Zadok. Zadok became the father of Achim, Achim the father of Eliud, Eliud the father of Eleazar. Eleazar became the father of Matthan, Matthan the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary. Of her was born Jesus who is called the Messiah.** **Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means "God is with us."**

**If while we are evaluating everything, the Lord comes, He, directly or through the means of one of his Holy Angel, to reveal what his will is, then there is no space for the mind. Every faculty is taken away from it. It can no longer argue, nor reason, neither think nor evaluate the things. After the Lord speaks, there is only space for a full and perfect obedience so that what is asked is done. This is the failure of our faith. If, after the Lord has spoken, we put our mind before the Word of the Lord, we attest that our faith is dead. And always dead is the faith that does not immediately turn the Word the Lord turns to us into obedience so that we act according to what is asked to us. Today the modern spirituality speaks of reasoned obedience. This means that in the end our mind chooses to obey or disobey. After the Word has been uttered, the mind must be put apart. The Lord has shown his will. That will must be done. Other wills do not belong to God. To our mind belongs the choice of the holiest and wisest way, in the Holy Spirit, to do the divine will manifested, revealed, communicated to us according to fullness of truth. This is why the old spirituality spoke of obedience “perinde ac cadaver.” As a corpse is not from his will, but from the will of the one who moves it, thus must be for every man before the divine Word. Joseph listens to the Word that the Angel turns to him. He rouses from sleep and does what is asked. There is not even a moment in him that separates the listening from the obedience. He neither asks the Angel. He listens and obeys. The Lord has spoken. One only obeys the Lord. In this obedience the salvation of the world is. Also the Virgin Mary has obeyed with immediate obedience. May her answer – "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." always be ours, too.**