**MONDAY SEPTEMBER 12 – XXIV WEEK O.T. [C]**

**MOST HOLY NAME OF MARY**

**“I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith.”**

**The text of the Gospel should not deceive. If it is true that the centurion says a word and those subject to him owe obedience to that word, we must confess that there is a substantial difference between the obedience given to Jesus of each element of the creation and that given by men to their superiors. In the creation, each element obeys Christ Jesus according to the received command. Jesus says to leprosy to leave a body and leprosy obeys without even one moment of delay. He says to a dead child to stand up and he stands up. He says to Lazarus, by then in the tomb since four days, to get out and Lazarus gets out. He says to the wind to abide and the wind abides. He says to the fever to leave a man and the fever immediately leaves the man. Moreover, the Word of Jesus is creative of a new reality. Things did not exist and He has called them to existence. Not only by creation, but also by multiplication. Here is how the Book of the Wisdom proclaims this great miracle of the obedience of the creatures to their Creator and Lord: “For the elements, in variable harmony among themselves, like strings of the harp, produce new melody, while the flow of music steadily persists. And this can be perceived exactly from a review of what took place. For land creatures were changed into water creatures, and those that swam went over on to the land. Fire in water maintained its own strength, and water forgot its quenching nature; Flames, by contrast, neither consumed the flesh of the perishable animals that went about in them, nor melted the icelike, quick-melting kind of ambrosial food. For every way, O LORD! you magnified and glorified your people; unfailing, you stood by them in every time and circumstance.” (Wis 19,18-22).**

**The word of man is infinitively different, instead. It first needs people to communicate it. So that an order goes from a person to another one, it also takes months. Furthermore, the one who must execute the command not always succeeds in what was ordered to him. The received command is subject to the natural, spiritual, of experience, training capacity. Because of a series of unexpected or even unpredictable human factors, many orders are in danger of failure. The centurion wants to say one only thing to Jesus: You are above every Creature. You only need to say one only Word. You command and everything obeys you. If I command and I am obeyed, you too, if you command, you will be obeyed. In fact, Jesus commands and the servant is healed. The command of Jesus belongs to no man. Whoever believes in Christ works in the name of Christ. Jesus does not command in the name of his Father, nor of any other authority superior to his one, that does not exist in the creation. He speaks in his name. I say to you. I command you. I want it. I say to you: stand up. Thinking that on earth or in heaven there is one only person similar or equal to Christ Jesus is against the entire revelation. Jesus is the only Begotten Son of the Father made by Him in the beginning, namely since always. He is the only Mediator between the Father and the entire creation, included every man. He is the Lord and the Judge of the universe. This is his eternal, divine, immortal truth.**

**Let us read the text of Lk 7,1-10**

**When he had finished all his words to the people, he entered Capernaum. A centurion there had a slave who was ill and about to die, and he was valuable to him. When he heard about Jesus, he sent elders of the Jews to him, asking him to come and save the life of his slave. They approached Jesus and strongly urged him to come, saying, "He deserves to have you do this for him, for he loves our nation and he built the synagogue for us." And Jesus went with them, but when he was only a short distance from the house, the centurion sent friends to tell him, "Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof. Therefore, I did not consider myself worthy to come to you; but say the word and let my servant be healed. For I too am a person subject to authority, with soldiers subject to me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come here,' and he comes; and to my slave, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard this he was amazed at him and, turning, said to the crowd following him, "I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith." When the messengers returned to the house, they found the slave in good health.**

**The centurion sees Jesus as a centurion, as a man used to receive commands and to give them. The command is contained in a word said and uttered. When one receives an order, one must give the command ready and immediate obedience. Who is Jesus for the centurion? He is the person who can command or give a command to each element of the creation and the given command is executed immediately. If Jesus commands the fever to leave his servant, the fever immediately leaves it and his servant will be healed. This is the faith of the centurion in Jesus. Jesus is amazed by this faith and confesses it to the crowd: “I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith.” Why is this so great? Because the centurion attributes a universal almightiness to the Word of Jesus. No element of the creation can disobey his command. Since the creation obeys only to the one who has created it, the centurion confesses that Jesus is its Creator. If he is not the Creator, he has received such a great almightiness by the Creator. That of the centurion is a faith of most pure logics. May the Mother of Jesus help us have such a great faith, too.**