**SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 17 – XXIV WEEK O. T. [C]**

**But as for the seed that fell on rich soil, they are the ones who, when they have heard the word, embrace it with a generous and good heart, and bear fruit through perseverance.**

**The kingdom of God arises, if one sows the Word of God. Where the Word of God is not loved, the kingdom of God cannot arise in the hearts. Jesus immediately reveals that three parts of the seed will be lost. It is a seed that falls on deaf ears. One may ask: why sowing then, if no fruit is produced? There is a great difference between the logic of profit and the logic of the love and the righteousness of the Lord. God makes no calculations. He loves. The seed of the Gospel is most pure gift of his love. Tomorrow no one can say to God: “You have not loved me. You have not given me the Word of the salvation.” The Lord will place him before his responsibilities. God always loves, everyone. However, there is a great difference between the first, the second, the third part of the seed. The first part neither enters the heart, for it remains on the road, on the surface. The second part enters the heart, but the heart is not able to give it life. Again, a responsibility that is of the man and not of the gift of God. The gift of God is equal for every soil. The heart that accepts the gift is different, instead. The heart of this second part accepts, but then it does not bring to fruition. The third part grows, instead, but it does not bear its fruits. In man’s life, there are stronger and more resistant grasses that the good wheat. These bad grasses grow more than the wheat. Having mightier roots than those of the wheat, they deprive the wheat of every energy. Thus, no fruit is gathered. This non-maturation is responsibility of man, as well. From one part, there is the gift of God that is good, rather very good. From the other one, there is the heart of man. There is the heart- road, the heart-rock, the heart full of thorns. On these three hearts there is no fruit. The plant can even develop, but it does not bears. The fourth part falls on the good soil, grows and produces fruits a hundredfold. Three parts of seed do not bear, one bears. This is the relation that exists between sowing and harvesting. One sows little, one gathers little. The more Word of the Lord one sows, and the more one gathers.**

**Let us read the text of Lk 8,4-15**

**When a large crowd gathered, with people from one town after another journeying to him, he spoke in a parable. "A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path and was trampled, and the birds of the sky ate it up. Some seed fell on rocky ground, and when it grew, it withered for lack of moisture. Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. And some seed fell on good soil, and when it grew, it produced fruit a hundredfold." After saying this, he called out, "Whoever has ears to hear ought to hear." Then his disciples asked him what the meaning of this parable might be. He answered, "Knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of God has been granted to you; but to the rest, they are made known through parables so that 'they may look but not see, and hear but not understand.' "This is the meaning of the parable. The seed is the word of God. Those on the path are the ones who have heard, but the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts that they may not believe and be saved. Those on rocky ground are the ones who, when they hear, receive the word with joy, but they have no root; they believe only for a time and fall away in time of trial. As for the seed that fell among thorns, they are the ones who have heard, but as they go along, they are choked by the anxieties and riches and pleasures of life, and they fail to produce mature fruit. But as for the seed that fell on rich soil, they are the ones who, when they have heard the word, embrace it with a generous and good heart, and bear fruit through perseverance.**

**Now Jesus gives the Apostles the meaning of the parable. First truth: the seed is the Word of God. Consequence of this first truth: one sows the Word of God, one gathers the kingdom of God. One does not sow the Word of God, no kingdom arises. Not only must the seed be accepted, it must also be kept with joy, love, highest care. Accepting a seed and abandoning it, exposing it to full light may make it be taken away. The devil is the thief of the Word. When the Word is not jealously kept in the heart, the devil always comes and takes it away. Deprived of the Word of God, no man can edify the kingdom of God. Kingdom of God and Word are one only thing. Never two things. When one receives the Word of God, one must receive it with one only truth in the heart: received the Word, one must consecrate the entire life to it. If demanded by history, one must give his own blood to the Word, as well. When one does not take into account the martyrdom for the Word, one always falls into the temptation of abandoning the journey. Today there are many who begin with the Word, but then the perseverance tires. One abandons at the first difficulty. When one receives the Word in the heart, life must always be obedience to the Word. The Word must be the unique law of our life. The Word must set the rhythm of the hours and of the days. What are the anxieties and riches and pleasures of life? They are the law of the flesh that takes place in us and supplants the Word. Man can walk with one only law in his heart: either the Law of Christ or the law of the world. Whoever wants to bear fruits, against the entire world, even against the Angels of heaven or the demons of hell, must be anchored, tied, enchained, cemented, melted with the Word of the Lord. He and The Word must be one only thing. Every little detachment from the Word produces disasters in the person and, through the person, they are spread in the world. May the Mother of God help us keep and bring to fruition the Word of Jesus.**