**THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 22 – XXV WEEK O.T. [C]**

**But Herod said, "John I beheaded. Who then is this about whom I hear such things?" And he kept trying to see him.**

**Herod wonders: “Who then is this about whom I hear such things?". Herod is the world. Today the world asks, wants to know, wonders, is hungry and thirsty for truth. Many are those who ask, there is no one who responds. The one who responds, everyone responds with his religious tale, packaged more or less tailored on one’s own incredulity or on that particular, personal God that everyone has made, also using the ash of the Scripture, of Theology, of the sacred literature and often of the liturgy, too. One will well understand that without no one responding according to truth, hunger and thirst will destroy man and will abandon him to the multiple falsities that arise imperiously today, as fiery dragons that come to break down, destroy, annihilate. Today one wants everyone to ask and everyone to respond. One does not want the responses to be given. One even says that no one has the truth. The world cannot ask and respond on its own. If the world asks, one needs someone to give a response according to most pure truth and, in order to give a response according to most pure truth, one must know the truth with every purity and wisdom of Christ Jesus. Since our truth is Christ, to us the duty to know Christ according to most pure truth and wisdom in the Holy Spirit. To the world that asks, one responds, letting the Spirit speak from the abyss of his heart.**

**Speaking to the world from falsity, from misunderstanding, from indeterminacy, from voluntary or involuntary heresy – in fact, there are heresies that want to deny this or that other truth and there are heresies that do not complete the phrase for superficiality, for mental and spiritual strangeness, for assumption that that is the truth of our God and also because one wants to leave the door open to every solution – does not help to give response to the world that asks. Christ Jesus cannot be rightly undetermined, undefined, uncatchable, voluble, changeable, shimmering, evanescent. He has his specific identity and it is from his perfect truth that one must speak. Either one speaks from the heart of Christ, or one might never respond to the world. When we speak in a superficial way, even with a righteous intention, the world does not live of righteous intention. The world, that is world, and always remains world, takes our words and gives them its meaning, fills them with its falsity and has them bounced so that every ear listens to them according to the added falsity and not according to the superficiality or the partiality with which they had been uttered. Jesus has never let the world interpret Him. He has always clarified both his word and his actions. My word is that. Not other ones. My gestures are these ones. Not other ones. My Gospel is that. Not other ones. This firmness is necessary so that no one turns our “innocent or malicious” heresies into instrument of falsity, lie, sinful ideology.**

**Let us read the text of Lk 9,7-9**

**Herod the tetrarch heard about all that was happening, and he was greatly perplexed because some were saying, "John has been raised from the dead"; others were saying, "Elijah has appeared"; still others, "One of the ancient prophets has arisen." But Herod said, "John I beheaded. Who then is this about whom I hear such things?" And he kept trying to see him.**

**To Herod who asks, one must give a true, clear, unequivocal response. Jesus is not Elijah. It is not John the Baptist who is risen. Not one of the ancient prophets. Jesus is the Only Begotten Son of the Father, the Incarnated Word for our eternal redemption, the Crucified for love and for obedience who is risen, the Lord of history, the Judge of the living and of the dead, the One before whom tomorrow everyone will have to appear to give reason of all his works, both in good and in bad. The Word of Jesus is the only true, the only right, the only perfect. Responding is bringing a heart into the true heart of Christ Jesus, not in a false heart, not in our partially true or partially false heart. One responds to Herod showing him the heart of Christ, so that he may see it and decides to accept Him for his life or refuse Him for his death and eternal damnation. Since today the Christian has departed from Christ, rather he neither wants Christ Jesus anymore, one might never show the world the heart of Christ. But if one does not show the world the heart of the world, as many of us do, it is of no use but justifying the sin of the world. Rather, not only to justify it, but also to ratify it as most pure way of salvation and of redemption. The Christian does all of that for he has forgotten who he is. Becoming disciple of Jesus, he will never have to be from his will, from his desires, from his thoughts, from his principles, from his beliefs. If he is from his thoughts, he is no longer from the thoughts of Christ. If he is from his feelings, he is not from the feelings of Christ Jesus. He will have to be only from the will of Christ as it is manifested in his Word. We can even say: “We do not own the truth.”, for we are called to walk in the truth. But we can never say: “We do not own the Word”, because the Word has been handed over to us. God has written it for us, first on the stone and then on the scroll and on the papyrus. To the world that asks, we must respond according to perfect knowledge of the Word. May the Mother of Jesus come to our rescue. May She let us always respond from the written Word.**