**16 OCTOBER – XXIX SUNDAY O.T. [C]**

**But when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"**

**Can one answer this question of Jesus? If we observe where the Church, one, holy, Catholic, Apostolic is going today, the answer would tend to a full no. When the Son of man comes, He will not find faith on earth. However, if we observe, search, analyse the Sacred History, we must conclude for a full yes. When the Son of man comes, He will find faith on earth. Why will He find it? Because if He did not find faith, it would be the total defeat of Christ Jesus. It would mean that Jesus is no longer the Lord of the universe and of Satan, too, and of his entire hellish army. It would mean that God has renounced to be God. It would mean that God no longer loves man with eternal love. It would mean a total upheaval of the action of God toward man. It would mean that for man there would be no possibility of redemption nor of salvation. It would be the universal triumph of Satan. Instead, the Sacred History says to us that all the times, when darkness was going to wrap his people, the Lord intervened with his prophets and made his Word sound with might of truth. He also intervened with great sign that attested his sovereignty over the people and faith returned in many heart even through most sorrowful ways. Moreover, it is revealed truth that as in Israel a little remnant faithful to his Lord has always remained, so also in the Church there will always be a little remnant that will remain faithful to the Lord. This truth is affirmed by Christ the Lord. The disciples are the little remnant, called by him little flock, when He gives them the Law for keeping the sound faith in the heart: “Do not be afraid any longer, little flock, for your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival. Amen, I say to you, he will gird himself, have them recline at table, and proceed to wait on” (Cf. Lk 12,32-40). Even in the darkest moments of the Church’s life, this little flock has always remained faithful to his Lord and Christ. Even if this flock is invisible, it exists and, through its faithfulness, the true faith will continue to shine in the world, warming many hearts and enlightening many minds. It is up to each one to keep the true faith and become, among his brothers, little flock, little mustard seed, little leaven that ferments the dough with divine light. For the Christian it is an obligation of righteousness and of charity.**

**Let us read the text of Lk 18, 1-8**

**Then he told them a parable about the necessity for them to pray always without becoming weary. He said, "There was a judge in a certain town who neither feared God nor respected any human being. And a widow in that town used to come to him and say, 'Render a just decision for me against my adversary.' For a long time the judge was unwilling, but eventually he thought, 'While it is true that I neither fear God nor respect any human being, because this widow keeps bothering me I shall deliver a just decision for her lest she finally come and strike me.'" The Lord said, "Pay attention to what the dishonest judge says. Will not God then secure the rights of his chosen ones who call out to him day and night? Will he be slow to answer them? I tell you, he will see to it that justice is done for them speedily. But when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"**

**As Jesus, at the moment of the passion, said to his apostles: “I am not alone. The Father is with me”, so every disciple, that is little remnant, will have to say: “I am not alone. Jesus is with me. The Father and the Holy Spirit is with me. The Virgin Mary, the Angels and the Saints are with me.” But above all, he will have to say: “With me there are still the seven thousands souls that have not converted to the prince of the world. They persevere and I persevere. They are leaven and I will be leaven.” This faith in the Word of Jesus prevents us from falling in the discouragement of Elijah. He complains for having remained faith to the Lord, he alone. Instead, the Lord reveals him that he is not alone. In Israel there are still seven thousands of people that have not bowed down before Baal, namely to the false gods of the people. Even today, a time in which one may be tempted to consider himself alone and so to abandon the battleground for the fighting of the true faith, knowing that on the battleground there are many others who live the same fight, gives vigour, inspires courage.**

**One is not alone. One is with God, with Christ, with the Holy Spirit, with the Virgin Mary, Angels and Saints. One is with the little flock who remains faithful to his Lord, God, Creator, Saviour. Today temptation is strong. One considers himself alone. One wants to abandon the battlefield. One wants to leave the fight. One wants to take refuge before God like Elijah. Instead, one must retrace his steps and take again the battle for keeping the true faith. Even today one is not alone. There are seven thousands people who fight, consume themselves so that the truth of Christ Jesus continues to enlighten the minds of men. This faith inspires great hope. Satan cannot defeat Christ the Lord. He cannot darken the light. Darkness will never win. The Scripture attests us that faith has never failed on earth. If it has not failed yesterday, it will fail neither today and not tomorrow. The disciple of Jesus will have to convince himself, though, that he is the way so that many other people reach the most pure faith in Christ Jesus. If he falls from true faith, because of him when the Lord comes, He will not find faith on earth. Because of him, many people have remained in the kingdom of darkness or they have even returned into falsity from the kingdom of truth. May the Mother of God make us way of faith for the entire world.**