**MONDAY NOVEMBER 07 – XXXII WEEK [C]**

**Things that cause sin will inevitably occur, but woe to the person through whom they occur. It would be better for him if a millstone were put around his neck and he be thrown into the sea than for him to cause one of these little ones to sin. Be on your guard!**

**The Christian is called to be perfect image of Jesus the Lord in the world. As in Christ Jesus there is no shadow of sin, neither grievous nor minor, He has always done all and only the will of his Father with the help of the Holy Spirit and always moved and led, guided and supported by Him, thus must be for every disciple of the Lord. Offense is every visible stain of sin, of vice, of transgression of the Word of the Lord that the Christian brings in his body and in his spirit. The Apostle Paul, knowing that the offense can cause grievous damages to the other disciples of Jesus, especially to those who are still little in faith, gives a rule that we all must observe: our conscience is not what must decide what one can do or cannot do. What might not be a sin for our conscience, not a transgression of the Word, it might be sin for another conscience, instead. Then, the Christian, knowing that, must refrain himself from carrying out that action. The conscience of his brother forbids it to him. This means for the Apostle Paul that the conscience of the body of Christ must govern our life and not our personal conscience. Therefore, following the conscience of the body of Christ becomes an obligation for every disciple of Jesus. Here is then why those who prepend their conscience before truth, holiness, righteousness, the obedience that must always rule the body of Christ are at fault. With the baptism, we are no longer isolated people, each one living in his little or great world. With the baptism, we become body of Christ, true body of Christ. In the body of Christ one must take the conscience of the body of Christ and this conscience is that of Christ Jesus. Here is the great news that is fulfilled in us with the baptism: everyone renounces one’s own conscience to take the conscience of Christ. The conscience of Christ is the conscience of every other member. If I take the conscience of the one who is weak in faith, I must always act according to this conscience. Instead, we cry out, we protest, we rebel when we are asked the sacrifice of our conscience to take to conscience of the body of Christ. This reveals that we do not still live as true body of Christ. We want to live as single separated people from each other. All of that is destruction of the body of Christ. Whoever destroys the body of Christ destroys himself.**

**The Apostle Paul, knowing the damages the offense causes very well, encourages the disciples of Jesus to be exemplary in all things, in every moment of their life, whether it is a moment of serenity or even a moment of great affliction, tribulation, persecution: “We cause no one to stumble in anything, in order that no fault may be found with our ministry; on the contrary, in everything we commend ourselves as ministers of God, through much endurance, in afflictions, hardships, constraints, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, vigils, fasts; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, in a holy spirit, in unfeigned love, in truthful speech, in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness at the right and at the left; through glory and dishonor, insult and praise. We are treated as deceivers and yet are truthful; as unrecognized and yet acknowledged; as dying and behold we live; as chastised and yet not put to death; as sorrowful yet always rejoicing; as poor yet enriching many; as having nothing and yet possessing all things.” (2Cor 6,3-10). The one who does not commit a sin of offense is perfect. The one who lives with the conscience of the body of Christ does not commit it.**

**Let us read the text of Lk 17,1-6**

**He said to his disciples, "Things that cause sin will inevitably occur, but woe to the person through whom they occur. It would be better for him if a millstone were put around his neck and he be thrown into the sea than for him to cause one of these little ones to sin. Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. And if he wrongs you seven times in one day and returns to you seven times saying, 'I am sorry,' you should forgive him." And the apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith." The Lord replied, "If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you would say to (this) mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.**

**Today Jesus teaches his disciples that they will always live in a world made up of offenses. They must be careful so that no offense arises in the world through their life. This is why the will always have to remain, dwell in the Word, always led ad guided by the Holy Spirit. Not only should they avoid the active offense, the offense produced by them. They must also avoid the passive offense and the offense of the others might contaminate their heart, their mind, their spirit. Today all the disciples of Jesus are falling into this sin. They are letting, with their most grievous responsibility, the thought of the world, that is a thought against Christ and against his most pure truth of salvation and redemption, destroy the entire mystery of Christ and every truth of the Gospel in their heart and in their mind. Ruled by this passive offense, they are letting every falsity and lie enter the Gospel. Because of this offense, the truth of Christ is disappearing from earth. May the Mother of God help us deliver ourselves from the thought of the world so that only the thought of Christ triumphs.**