**WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 09 – XXXII WEEK [C]**

**DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA**

**"Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and you will raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking about the temple of his body.**

**Jesus is the New Temple of God built through the work of the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mary. This temple was destroyed by the Jews. They have hanged him to a pole and nailed on it. He died on the cross. He was buried in the tomb. The Father descend in the tomb and, always through the work of his Holy Spirit, not only builds again the body of Christ pierced by death. He makes it glorious, spiritual, incorruptible, immortal. Now Christ Jesus lives in the eternal heaven with his true body. Christ risen does not die any longer so far. What He says to the Jews today was fulfilled on the day of his glorious resurrection. In the New Temple that Christ Jesus is, the fullness of deity dwells bodily. Those who become body of Christ through the sacrament of the baptism become, too, participant of this fullness. Here is the perfect truth of Christ Jesus revealed by the Apostle Paul to us: “He delivered us from the power of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For in him were created all things in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers; all things were created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things he himself might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile all things for him, making peace by the blood of his cross (through him), whether those on earth or those in heaven.” (Col 1,13-20). This truth is thus completed in the same Letter: “For in him dwells the whole fullness of the deity bodily, and you share in this fullness in him, who is the head of every principality and power. In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not administered by hand, by stripping off the carnal body, with the circumcision of Christ. You were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. And even when you were dead (in) transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, he brought you to life along with him, having forgiven us all our transgressions; obliterating the bond against us, with its legal claims, which was opposed to us, he also removed it from our midst, nailing it to the cross; despoiling the principalities and the powers, he made a public spectacle of them, leading them away in triumph by it.” (Col 2,9-15). The richness of Christ Jesus becomes richness of every man, as long as he becomes body of Christ, and one becomes body of Christ through the preaching of the Gospel of Christ and through the faith in Him, in Christ Jesus, according to the purity of truth and of wisdom contained in the announced Word. If one announces a false word, a false doctrine, a false wisdom, one will necessarily think with a false faith. Each false faith does not make us true body of Christ and we are cut out of the richness and of the fullness of Christ Jesus. We remain in our body of sin and in the slavery of it.**

**Let us read the text of Jn 2,13-22**

**Since the Passover of the Jews was near, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, as well as the money-changers seated there. He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area, with the sheep and oxen, and spilled the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables, and to those who sold doves he said, "Take these out of here, and stop making my Father's house a marketplace." His disciples recalled the words of scripture, "Zeal for your house will consume me." At this the Jews answered and said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and you will raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking about the temple of his body. Therefore, when he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they came to believe the scripture and the word Jesus had spoken.**

**The moment that we are living is of total destruction of the new temple of God that is Christ Jesus. How are we managing to destroy this new temple of God? Taking away, every day, one truth to the mystery that is Christ the Lord. Without truth, Christ Jesus is reduced to an idol. The Word of Jeremiah and of Baruch is fulfilled: “Like a scarecrow in a cucumber field are they, they cannot speak; They must be carried about, for they cannot walk. Fear them not, they can do no harm, neither is it in their power to do good." (Jer 10, 5). “For like a scarecrow in a cucumber patch, that is no protection, are their wooden, gilded, silvered gods.” (Bar 6, 69). This is the great sin of the Christian today: he has reduced Jesus to an idol. Truly, today, is Christ Jesus less than a scarecrow in a cucumber patch. Either we give back Christ Jesus his truth, divine, eternal truth, of creation, of incarnation, of salvation and redemption, or the world will truly see Him as a scarecrow. May the Mother of God help us give back Christ each of his truth.**