**13 NOVEMBER – XXXIII SUNDAY O.T. [C]**

**You will even be handed over by parents, brothers, relatives, and friends, and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name, but not a hair on your head will be destroyed. By your perseverance you will secure your lives.**

**Satan has vowed eternal hatred to the disciple of Jesus. He does not rest, until he makes him a soldier of his kingdom for the conquest of other disciples of Jesus. The one who does not dwell in the heart of Christ, the one who is not firmly planted in the Holy Spirit can never distinguish a soldier of Christ from a soldier of Satan and, without distinction, that will have to be in him fruit and work of the Holy Spirit, he will always let himself be conquered by the soldiers of Satan and will turn himself into one of them for the ruin of many other of his brothers. Satan owns the world entirely so far. The ones he does not own are still some Christians, few actually. Many have been conquered and used as his ministers, his deacons, his servants to conquer many other ones. What does he use so that one abandons the faith and hands himself over to his arms? Of every persecutions, every calumny, every slander, every mortification, every scourge not only physical but also spiritual. There is no evil that Satan unleashes against the disciples of the Lord. We must always remember that he challenge the Lord for each of us, as he has challenged the Lord on Job. We must always remember that the Lord accepts the challenge of Satan, even if he puts a limit on his oppressions. With Job the limit was that of sparing his life. With Christ Jesus he neither put this limit and Satan had him nailed on the cross, using many of his soldiers who were the scribes, the Pharisees, the Sadducees, the elders of people, high priest.**

**We do not know what limit the Lord has put to Satan in relation to our life. We know, though, that the challenge is always accepted by the Lord. Here is why Jesus warns us: our life will be saved by or perseverance. Perseverance in what? In the righteous faith, in the true charity, in the sound hope. Satan wants us to fall from faith, to abandon the charity responding to evil with evil and to unrighteousness with unrighteousness and to also fall from the sound hope of the eternal life reserved to those who will have persevered until the end. We must actually say that today Satan is fighting with very sophisticated weapons. First, he has engaged before God, challenging Him, that he would have reduced the entire mystery of Christ Jesus into dust, in which the truth of every other mystery is, and, at the same time, that he would have shattered the mystery of man, too. We must confess, in analysing history that he is succeeding. Who is he making use of? Of even fresher troops that he draws from the soldiers of Christ the Lord. Promising them a miserable earthily glory, helping them rise into the career, prompting them to desire coveted seats, Satan obtains that these soldiers of Christ, loving their personal glory more, instead of scarifying their glory to the glory of their Lord and God, are willing to deny the entire Gospel, the entire truth, the entire mystery. A seat on earth is worthier that a seat in the eternal heaven. Whoever falls into this trap of Satan is turned into one of his minister of excellence. With him, he can destroy the Church from its core, with every false doctrine.**

**Let us read the text of Lk 21,5-19**

**While some people were speaking about how the temple was adorned with costly stones and votive offerings, he said, "All that you see here - the days will come when there will not be left a stone upon another stone that will not be thrown down." Then they asked him, "Teacher, when will this happen? And what sign will there be when all these things are about to happen?" He answered, "See that you not be deceived, for many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he,' and 'The time has come.' Do not follow them! When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for such things must happen first, but it will not immediately be the end." Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be powerful earthquakes, famines, and plagues from place to place; and awesome sights and mighty signs will come from the sky. "Before all this happens, however, they will seize and persecute you, they will hand you over to the synagogues and to prisons, and they will have you led before kings and governors because of my name. It will lead to your giving testimony. Remember, you are not to prepare your defense beforehand, for I myself shall give you a wisdom in speaking that all your adversaries will be powerless to resist or refute. You will even be handed over by parents, brothers, relatives, and friends, and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name, but not a hair on your head will be destroyed. By your perseverance you will secure your lives.**

**How can we persevere until the end? The Letter to the Hebrews offers us a good rule: “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us and persevere in running the race that lies before us while keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the leader and perfecter of faith. For the sake of the joy that lay before him he endured the cross, despising its shame, and has taken his seat at the right of the throne of God. Consider how he endured such opposition from sinners, in order that you may not grow weary and lose heart. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood.” (Heb 12,1-4). We, too, are asked to choose between the glory of the world and the cross. We secure our life, if we choose the cross like Christ. May the Mother of God help us always choose the cross.**