**20 NOVEMBER – XXXIV SUNDAY O. T. [C]**

**SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING**

**And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."**

**On the Golgotha there are a lot of people. Everyone asks Christ to show him what He can do today. Is He able to descend from the cross? Then he might be the Messiah of man. A crucified Messiah, who remains nailed on a cross is useless to man. The Messiah is true if he delivers from every cross, from all the crosses. Today. However, if He remains on the cross and does not deliver, he might never be believed, never accepted, never exalted as King of history or of the world. The teaching of Jesus has always been coherent. He has come to teach every man, letting himself be crucified by man, how one can and must carry every cross. There are no crosses that one cannot live. One must also live the crosses of one’s own vices, sins and transgressions. One must live the crosses created by the sins of every other man, of all men. Is He not carrying the crosses of the sins of all men of his shoulders? Since every sin produces a special cross, He carries all the crosses of man, He is nailed on each of them. He has come to teach man how one remains hanged on every cross on earth, to avoid remaining on the cross for the eternity after our death. All the crosses of this world are not at all comparable to the eternal cross, made of fire, with nails of fire, in a lake of fire and brimstone, in the eternal darkness of hell.**

**Let us read the text of Lk 23,35-43**

**The people stood by and watched; the rulers, meanwhile, sneered at him and said, "He saved others, let him save himself if he is the chosen one, the Messiah of God." Even the soldiers jeered at him. As they approached to offer him wine they called out, "If you are King of the Jews, save yourself." Above him there was an inscription that read, "This is the King of the Jews." Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us." The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."**

**Together with Christ, two thieves have been crucified. One asks to be delivered from the cross of the present. He asks Christ to deliver himself and him, too. This thief is the mass of humanity. He queues to all those who ask Christ to attest to be true Messiah with his capacity to deliver himself and to deliver the world from the many crosses. But Christ has come to ensure that man no longer creates any cross neither for himself and nor for any other man. Delivering man from sin and giving him the grace and the Holy Spirit so that he no longer sins, man is delivered from many crosses. Today we have the great cross of the drug, of alcohol, of crime, both organized and without any bond, of the structures of sin. We have the crosses of the endless injustice that one commits in every field in which man lives his life. Whoever believes in Christ Jesus might never become a creator of cross. If he becomes a creator of cross, he attests not to believe in Christ the Lord. Whoever lives in the sin denies the blood that has redeemed him, the Holy Spirit who has sanctified him, the grace that has regenerated him and has made him a new creature to always live as new creature. The other thief does not think about the cross of time. He is already on it. It is enough to wait a little and then death will deliver him from it. A little suffering and everything will be over. But it would be extremely terrible to pass from the ephemeral and temporary crosses of earth to the eternal cross of hell. With great spirit of faith, he first defends Christ in his righteousness. He is on the cross as innocent. He is carrying the cross of the sin of man. This truth must never be forgotten. Man is the creator of crosses for man. Every sin of man creates many crosses for many men. Even one only sin of foolishness creates endless crosses. Then he thinks about the eternal cross that must necessarily avoided and asks Jesus to accept him in his kingdom with Him. He is a thief. He has expiated his sin. He dies on a cross. If Jesus wants it and will remember him, he will accept him in his mercy in his kingdom and he will not pass from the cross of time to the eternal cross. Jesus accepts the humble prayer of this crucified and reassures him: "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise. You cross is over forever. In my eternal kingdom there are no crosses and you will be in it, for you are in my truth today.” This thief gives Christ Jesus a most high witness. He proclaims him innocent. He declares him holy. He is on the cross not for his sins, but because of the sin of the world. Here is the great teaching: Jesus carries the cross created by the world for him and turns it into redemption and salvation for the entire humanity. Through this cross lived for love, we can all enter the sources of salvation and of redemption. May the Mother of God obtain for us the grace to turn, us too, every cross into cross of Christ Jesus.**