**SATURDAY JANUARY 28 – III WEEK O.T. [A]**

**Then he asked them, "Why are you terrified? Do you not yet have faith?" They were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this whom even wind and sea obey?"**

**Faith is in the Person. The person is revealed by the Word and by the works that the person says and fulfils. The Apostles follow Jesus. From the miracles performed by Him, from the signs made by Him, from the mighty deeds done by Him, from the words said, they should already have a faith formed in His Person. What faith should they already have come to? To the faith that Jesus is greater than Moses and than all the prophets of the Old Testament. To the faith that before Jesus there are no impossible things. But also to a greater faith: if He has said to cross to the other side, one will cross to the other side. Whether it is windy or not, whether the boat sinks or remains afloat, with the boat or without the boat, one will cross to the other side. Ow this will happen, it is not given to them to know it. But one will cross to the other side. Let us do an analogy with the faith of Abraham. The Lord said to Abraham that his descendants would have been as countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore. Here is what the Lord asks Abraham now: “Take your son Isaac, your only one, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him up as a holocaust on a height that I will point out to you." Early the next morning Abraham saddled his donkey, took with him his son Isaac, and two of his servants as well, and with the wood that he had cut for the holocaust, set out for the place of which God had told him. (Gen 22,1-3). Here is how the Holy Spirit, through the mouth of the Apostle Paul, reveals the depth of Abraham’s faith, faith from which his obedience arises: “He believed, hoping against hope, that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "Thus shall your descendants be." He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body as (already) dead (for he was almost a hundred years old) and the dead womb of Sarah. He did not doubt God's promise in unbelief; rather, he was empowered by faith and gave glory to God and was fully convinced that what he had promised he was also able to do. That is why "it was credited to him as righteousness." But it was not for him alone that it was written that "it was credited to him"; it was also for us, to whom it will be credited, who believe in the one who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over for our transgressions and was raised for our justification.” (Rm 4,16-25). In the hour of trial, Abraham has always kept his faith in the God he believed in. His God is the Almighty. From nothingness, He gave him Isaac, for He has given him to him from the nothingness of Sarah’s barrenness and, moreover, also infinitively beyond the limit of his age, and from the nothingness of death, He would have given him back to him. Nothing is impossible to his Almighty God. Jesus asks for this faith to his Apostles that night. They should have believed that, even if the boat had sunk, they would have crossed to the other side. Jesus had said it. Jesus would have never brought his disciples to the sea to sink drown in it. The storm is a trial for their faith.**

**Let us read the text of Mk 4.35-41**

**On that day, as evening drew on, he said to them, "Let us cross to the other side." Leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat just as he was. And other boats were with him. A violent squall came up and waves were breaking over the boat, so that it was already filling up. Jesus was in the stern, asleep on a cushion. They woke him and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" He woke up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Quiet! Be still!" The wind ceased and there was great calm.** **Then he asked them, "Why are you terrified? Do you not yet have faith?" They were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this whom even wind and sea obey?"**

**Our faith is always on trial. History can even be stormy. Whoever believes in Christ Jesus must always keep his faith. What is the faith to keep in the storm of history? Only one: this storm is to test my faith in Christ. If I believe that Christ Jesus will fulfil the salvation in the storm, then I have faith in Him. Instead, if I ask Him to put an end to the storm, then I do not have faith in Him yet. Has He not gone through the storm of the cross? Did He not live that storm until the end? The Father has not delivered Him from the storm. He has delivered Him in the storm. Indeed, death has swallowed Him and He descended in the kingdom of death and has given it an eternal way, a spiritual, glorious, incorruptible, immortal way. Today the non-faith of the Apostles produces a very great miracle in their heart. They ask a question - "Who then is this whom even wind and sea obey?" – to which an implicit answer is given: “Only God can command to sea and wind. Sea and wind obey only God.” Jesus reveals to be equal to God in his Person, for He commands in his name. he does not command in the name of God and not even by order of God. Now, no one can command in his name, if he is not God. From a request to the Lord made for fear, for little faith, for non-faith, when this request is fulfilled, a greater faith must arise into our heart and begin to lead our life. Now, the disciples know that Jesus is beyond the Prophets and must beyond Moses himself. The perfect faith in the divinity of Christ must still take further steps forward, but we are already on the right way. This is the divine pedagogy: leading his disciples through history to the perfect faith in Jesus the Lord. May the Mother of Jesus help us walk from faith to faith until reaching the perfect faith.**