**SATURDAY JULY 10 – XIV WEEK O.T. [B]**

**Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father. But whoever denies me before others, I will deny before my heavenly Father.**

**If these words of Jesus are true – I believe not only that they are true, even more I do believe that they are most pure truth – then, today the Christian, in relation to salvation, is in a bad way. It is enough to think about the relativization made today toward Christ Jesus and the Gospel, comparing and equalizing them to every other founder of religion and to every other religious and also non-religious text and one will realize that Christ Jesus might never acknowledge us before his Father. We do not know him in his most pure truth and He will not acknowledge us, either. Always for the one who believes in the most pure truth of these words. If then these words are without truth and without fulfilment, we will live in peace. Either we know him or we do not know him, we will all be in the eternal glory.**

**But how does one acknowledge Jesus before men? Everyone must acknowledge him according to his particular mission, vocation, charisma, ministry, command given to Him by the Lord. The Apostle must acknowledge Christ before men as Apostle, the Presbyter as Presbyter, the Deacon as Deacon, the Confirmed as Confirmed, the Baptised as Baptised, the Prophet as Prophet, the Theologist as Theologist, the Catechist as Catechist, the Missionary as Missionary. Only letting oneself be moved and led by the Holy Spirit, we can acknowledge Christ. Whoever does not obey the Spirit of the Lord might never acknowledge Christ according to his personal, particular, singular modality of being and operating.**

**Here is what the Apostle Paul reveals of himself in relation to his mission: “If I preach the gospel, this is no reason for me to boast, for an obligation has been imposed on me, and woe to me if I do not preach it! If I do so willingly, I have a recompense, but if unwillingly, then I have been entrusted with a stewardship. What then is my recompense? That, when I preach, I offer the gospel free of charge so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel. Although I am free in regard to all, I have made myself a slave to all so as to win over as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew to win over Jews; to those under the law I became like one under the law - though I myself am not under the law - to win over those under the law. To those outside the law I became like one outside the law - though I am not outside God's law but within the law of Christ - to win over those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, to win over the weak. I have become all things to all, to save at least some. All this I do for the sake of the gospel, so that I too may have a share in it.” (1Cor 9, 16-23)**

**Here is the spiritual testament he left to the Bishops in Asia: "You know how I lived among you the whole time from the day I first came to the province of Asia. I served the Lord with all humility and with the tears and trials that came to me because of the plots of the Jews, and I did not at all shrink from telling you what was for your benefit, or from teaching you in public or in your homes. I earnestly bore witness for both Jews and Greeks to repentance before God and to faith in our Lord Jesus. But now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem. What will happen to me there I do not know, except that in one city after another the holy Spirit has been warning me that imprisonment and hardships await me. Yet I consider life of no importance to me, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to bear witness to the gospel of God's grace.**

**"But now I know that none of you to whom I preached the kingdom during my travels will ever see my face again. And so I solemnly declare to you this day that I am not responsible for the blood of any of you, for I did not shrink from proclaiming to you the entire plan of God. Keep watch over yourselves and over the whole flock of which the holy Spirit has appointed you overseers, in which you tend the church of God that he acquired with his own blood. I know that after my departure savage wolves will come among you, and they will not spare the flock. And from your own group, men will come forward perverting the truth to draw the disciples away after them. So be vigilant and remember that for three years, night and day, I unceasingly admonished each of you with tears. (Act 20, 18-31)**

**Here is the modality according to which the Apostle John acknowledges Christ Jesus before men and also before the Church: “What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we looked upon and touched with our hands concerns the Word of life - for the life was made visible; we have seen it and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was made visible to us - what we have seen and heard we proclaim now to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; for our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We are writing this so that our joy may be complete.” (1Jn 1, 1-4) The Apostle John acknowledges Christ Jesus writing a Gospel, three Letters and the Book of Revelation. Jesus, from his texts, is revealed in all his most pure, eternal, divine, human truth, before the history, in the history, after the history. Without his texts, Jesus would not be the true Jesus. His texts are the seal of the Holy Spirit to all the Public Revelation. Most pure and eternal truth. Truth giving truth to every other truth.**

**Let us read the text of Mt 10,24-33**

**No disciple is above his teacher, no slave above his master. It is enough for the disciple that he become like his teacher, for the slave that he become like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more those of his household! "Therefore do not be afraid of them. Nothing is concealed that will not be revealed, nor secret that will not be known. What I say to you in the darkness, speak in the light; what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna. Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father's knowledge. Even all the hairs of your head are counted. So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father. But whoever denies me before others, I will deny before my heavenly Father.**

**A truth must be highlighted: one asks every disciple to acknowledge his Teacher, his Redeemer, his Saviour, his God before men. Acknowledging Christ is our duty, an obligation, if we want to be acknowledged by Jesus before his Father. This does not mean that the other one will be converted. If the other one does not convert to Christ, it is his responsibility. If the other one wants to remain in the darkness, it is his responsibility. It becomes ours if we have not acknowledged Christ according to the specific mandate appointed to us by the Holy Spirit. It is enough to observe this only principle of evangelic truth and all wars of words, insults, lies, anonymous letters, delays, contrasts, oppositions and things like these are over. Everyone is responsible before Christ of his actions and his words. Here is the great teaching coming to us from the Revelation:** “**Let the wicked still act wickedly, and the filthy still be filthy. The righteous must still do right, and the holy still be holy." "Behold, I am coming soon. I bring with me the recompense I will give to each according to his deeds” (Rev. 22, 11-12) The Gospel is peace on the cross. Always, from the cross, must we spread peace. Wars are of the prince of the world. Peace is of the children of light. Virgin of Light, make us your children of life. We will spread light and peace around us for all the days of our life.**