**TUESDAY JULY 13 – XV WEEK O.T. [B]**

**"Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty deeds done in your midst had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would long ago have repented in sackcloth and ashes. But I tell you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you.”**

**The prophet Amos reveals all the hardness of heart of the children of his people. God has proved him different times and in many ways, but no one has come to Him, to his God, with righteous and sincere conversion.**

**Hear this word, women of the mountain of Samaria, you cows of Bashan, You who oppress the weak and abuse the needy; Who say to your lords, "Bring drink for us!"The Lord GOD has sworn by his holiness: Truly the days are coming upon you When they shall drag you away with hooks, the last of you with fishhooks; You shall go out through the breached walls each by the most direct way, And you shall be cast into the mire, says the LORD.**

**Come to Bethel and sin, to Gilgal, and sin the more; Each morning bring your sacrifices, every third day, your tithes; Burn leavened food as a thanksgiving sacrifice, proclaim publicly your freewill offerings, For so you love to do, O men of Israel, says the Lord GOD.**

**Though I have made your teeth clean of food in all your cities, and have made bread scarce in all your dwellings, Yet you returned not to me, says the LORD.**

**Though I also withheld the rain from you when the harvest was still three months away; I sent rain upon one city but not upon another; One field was watered by rain, but another without rain dried up; Though two or three cities staggered to one city for water that did not quench their thirst; Yet you returned not to me, says the LORD.**

**I struck you with blight and searing wind; your many gardens and vineyards, your fig trees and olive trees the locust devoured; Yet you returned not to me, says the LORD. I sent upon you a pestilence like that of Egypt, and with the sword I slew your young men; Your horses I let be captured, to your nostrils I brought the stench of your camps; Yet you returned not to me, says the LORD. I brought upon you such upheaval as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah: you were like a brand plucked from the fire; Yet you returned not to me, says the LORD.**

**So now I will deal with you in my own way, O Israel! and since I will deal thus with you, prepare to meet your God, O Israel: Him who formed the mountains, and created the wind, and declares to man his thoughts; Who made the dawn and the darkness, and strides upon the heights of the earth: The LORD, the God of hosts by name. (Am 4, 1-13)**

**The Lord manifests as the only God of the history and of creation, he reveals himself, as the only Lord of heaven and earth, but people do not come back to Him, they do not convert. They perseverate on the way of the disobedience to the Covenant toward which they have pledged with solemn oath.**

**Jesus comes. He does not bring any famine. He does not disclose the sky so that no rain pours down. Not even does he call for grasshoppers and locusts to destroy the crops. For the children of Israel he fulfils every miracle, every prodigy. He gives the sight to blinds. He cleanses the lepers. He raises the dead. He gives new strength to paralytics. He frees from impure spirits. There is no miracle or prodigy he does not fulfil. What are the fruits? As at the time of Amos and of the other prophets people do not convert, do not come back to his God and Lord with sincere and real repentance. They ask for miracles but they remain in their disobedience.**

**The non-conversion attests how bitter the fruits of sin are. It really bears the death of intelligence, of heart, of soul, of will. It reaches the transformation of our nature from light into darkness, from truth into falsity, from having been created to image of his Creator and Lord to image of the angel of darkness. Only one can cure, heal, lead back to life the corrupted, devastated, transformed nature: Christ Jesus by means of his Holy Spirit.**

**We know that not only this corrupted nature has not come back to God, moreover it has decided to kill the Author of life himself, the Only Begotten Son of the Father, come to flesh to operate our redemption. Power of yesterday. Power of today. Today the power of evil is so fearless that it has decided to crush the head of the Virgin under its feet. It has put into effect such a perverse plan that no man on earth might hinder, stop, impede to be fulfilled. The One who is able to impede this perverse plan to be fulfilled is Her only, our Heavenly Mother. She only is able to impede that Satan and his children do not crush the head, do not crush the head of those who believe and have believed in Her, consecrating their life to Her to bring some other man to his Son Jesus Christ, our Lord. But we do know that She has always intervened in the history and will always intervene impeding the powers of hell to bear massacres of simple souls and of hearts that still want to believe in Her, who is Mother of the Only Begotten Son of the Father confessing his glory with purity of truth and doctrine.**

**Let us read the text of Mt 11,20-24**

**Then he began to reproach the towns where most of his mighty deeds had been done, since they had not repented. "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty deeds done in your midst had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would long ago have repented in sackcloth and ashes. But I tell you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you. And as for you, Capernaum: 'Will you be exalted to heaven? You will go down to the netherworld.' For if the mighty deeds done in your midst had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom on the day of judgment than for you."**

**For every gift of grace and truth, even if refused, trampled, denied, man is eternally responsible before his Lord. He is responsible of having massacred his intelligence, for not having used his will letting himself be ruled by his instincts of sin, for not having operated any sane discernment, for having walked in the history as a blind, a deaf, a mute regarding truth, to having handed over falsity and lie entirely. He is responsible of having discouraged those who fear God and of having encouraged the violent, the arrogant, the proud, every power of evil. He is responsible for every other gift of grace, of light, eternal life. The more one receives from God the more our responsibility is great. One is responsible for having denied Christ Jesus and his Mother who, with great love, have operated everything and operate everything for the salvation of man, without denying any spiritual and material gift.**

**But it is Christ Jesus who says these words, who always speaks in the Holy Spirit. For those who listens to Him, Christ Jesus is only a miserable man, an insane, one who is out of his mind, one who still thinks that man can be converted, one who does not know the power of evil and ignores the force of its tentacles of death and perdition. Christ Jesus has never fallen into the trap Satan had dug on his way. He saw with the eyes of the Father and the Father knows that, with his transforming, creating, renewing power of his Spirit, many hearts will come back to Him, letting themselves be made new creatures. This is the difference between Christ Jesus and the world of darkness. Jesus sees from the heart of the Father and knows that his sacrifice would have borne conversion and salvation. Men see with the eyes of Satan and insist in their death and their sin. Not only. They consume their energies of evil with the arrogance of succeeding in crushing under their feet the One who will always crush Satan.**

**Mother of God, give us eyes of Heaven so that we, too, see and believe. We will put at the service of salvation and redemption. Amen.**