**THURSDAY JULY 22 – XVI WEEK O.T. [B]**

**SAINT MARY MAGDALENE**

**"Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken my Lord, and I don't know where they laid him."**

**Mary stays outside, near the tomb, weeping. As she wept, she bent over into the tomb, hoping that what was lived by her up to the present was a dream. Jesus was there and she had not seen Him. Looking again, maybe she would have seen Him. The great love cancels every rationality, every science and every wisdom. It cancels every sufferance, too. Bending over the tomb, here is what she sees: “two angels in white sitting there, one at the head and one at the feet where the body of Jesus had been”. It is a true theophany, true heavenly manifestation. Heaven comes to rescue this woman. When Christ Jesus is looked for with all the heart, soul, mind, spirit, thought, desires, Heaven will always come to rescue. The Lord never leaves alone or abandons. It is eternal truth. God always lets everyone looking for Him find Him. Rather, He himself pushes men to look for Him. If He did not push, man would be overwhelmed in his sin and would find death in it.**

**The two Angels speak to the woman. They ask for the reason why she weeps. "Woman, why are you weeping?" The reply is immediate. "They have taken my Lord, and I don't know where they laid him." Mary is weeping since her Lord, her God, her life is not there anymore. It has been taken away. Jesus is not person of the earth for Mary. A man like the other men. For Mary, Jesus is her Lord, her God, her everything. How can a soul live without the Lord that is her life? Impossible. How can a man live without his soul that is his life? Impossible. As the soul is necessary to the body, so Jesus is necessary to Mary. As the soul allows the body to live and without the soul the body is in the death, so Jesus allows Mary to live and, without Jesus, Mary is in the death. For this reason, Jesus must be looked for. He is the soul, the life, the spirit, the breathe of the soul of Mary. Mary is true figure of how Jesus must be looked for.**

**Jesus is not in the tomb. The Angels cannot give her any solace. If she wants to find Jesus, she must go on searching, asking, questioning. “When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus there, but did not know it was Jesus.” Jesus does not manifest to Mary assuming his physical appearance that Mary already knew. He assumes other appearance. For this reason, she does not recognize Him. From which does one recognize Jesus, the true Jesus? From the Word. The Word alone is not enough. The gestures, too, are necessary. Words and gestures let Him be recognized. Here is why any vision of Jesus, any Word, must always be accompanied by his gestures. But if there is divergence, discrepancy, dissonance between the Word left to us by the Holy Spirit and that one hears from his vision, the vision does not certainly belong to Him. It is surely deceit. This rule is valid for every preacher of the Word. Every man may introduce to another man, saying to be, he, true heavenly and divine theophany. From which does one recognize that he is not a messenger of the Lord? From the Word that is of Jesus. From the gestures that are of Jesus.**

**Let us read the text of Jn 20,1-2.11-18**

**On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him."** **But Mary stayed outside the tomb weeping. And as she wept, she bent over into the tomb and saw two angels in white sitting there, one at the head and one at the feet where the body of Jesus had been. And they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken my Lord, and I don't know where they laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus there, but did not know it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" She thought it was the gardener and said to him, "Sir, if you carried him away, tell me where you laid him, and I will take him." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni," which means Teacher. Jesus said to her, "Stop holding on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and tell them, 'I am going to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary of Magdala went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and what he told her.**

**Jesus directs two questions to Mary: "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Mary weeps since she lost someone. Whom did she lose? Whom is she looking for? It is not a thing that Mary lost. It is a person. The question is true revelation. The one who asks knows why Mary is weeping. He does not ask: “What are you looking for?” but “Whom are you looking for?” Whom is referred to a person. Mary lost a person beloved to her and she is looking for him. Jesus knows who she is looking for. Mary, believing he was the gardener, told him: "Sir, if you carried him away, tell me where you laid him, and I will take him.” In this response, Mary omits to tell that she is looking for Jesus, the Crucified, laid in the tomb. In this moment, she is thinking and she is convinced that everyone knows the reason of her weeping and whom she is looking for. This is revealed by the fact that she omits to tell the name to the gardener “If you carried him away”: who carries him away? The research of Jesus absorbs her heart and her mind so much to make her believe that the entire world knows the subject of her research. Instead, the world knows nothing neither of her heart nor of her mind. The world is indifferent.**

**Today Jesus lets him be recognized by his voice. In fact He calls her by her name: “Mary!” His voice is unmistakable. She could distinguish it even among a billion of voices. The voice of Jesus is unique. There are no other ones. Jesus knows how to speak to heart. She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni," which means Teacher. It was enough to hear the voice of Jesus and Mary suddenly recognizes her Teacher. His sheep really recognizes his voice. Mary is true sheep of the sheepfold of Jesus. This is the reason why she immediately recognizes the voice of her Teacher, of her Shepherd. Today this is the great difficulty of the Christian: he does no longer recognize the voice of his Teacher. If one does not know the voice of the Shepherd, of the Teacher, one cannot follow him either. If one does not follow him, one is not flock of his sheepfold, of his pasture. He cannot lead us to the sources of the water of life. We are out of salvation. Mary saw Jesus. This must be enough to her. She must not think about staying there to contemplate the Loved of her soul. To her the Lord entrusts a great mission. She will have the chance to see Him again. Jesus is not yet ascended to the Father. He will stay on earth in a visible way for forty days yet. Here is why He said to her not to touch him, not to hold on to Him, not to want Him all for herself. “Noli me tangere”. She has to go to her brothers and give them a great news. The Apostles are now called brothers of Jesus. Brothers who have to share the same mission with Him. Brothers that He wants to be ready to bring the good news to the world. Jesus will have to leave them. He will have to ascend and return to the Father. Who is the Father to whom Jesus returns? He is the Father of Jesus and their Father. He is the God of Jesus and their God.**

**The Father of Jesus will have to be the Father of every man through their word. The God of Jesus will have to become the God of everyone through their word. Here is the great mission of the Apostles, of the brothers of Jesus. The Apostles will always have to be vigilant, be careful, so that one does not separate the Father from Jesus and God from Jesus and never separate the God and the Father of Jesus from their God and Father. A God without Christ Jesus will never have to exist for an apostle. The Father without Jesus will never have to exist for an apostle. If he must not exist for an apostle, he will not have to exist for any other disciple of Jesus. The faith of the Apostles cannot be different from that of Christ Jesus. God is the Father of Jesus. For this reason, Jesus and the Apostles are brothers. They are of the same faith and of the same truth of the Father. There is one only God and this only God is the Father of Jesus and of the Apostles. Mother of God, help us not to lose ourselves in faith. Obtain for us every power so that we never tire of looking for Jesus.**