**MONDAY JULY 26 – XVII WEEK O.T. [B]**

**SAINTS JOACHIM AND ANNE**

**"Blessed are your eyes, because they see, and your ears, because they hear.”**

**The Apostles are proclaimed blessed by Christ Jesus because of the grace that has been granted to the them to follow the Teacher so as to hear and see the mysteries of the reign of God. They hear the fullness of the truth and of the revelation. They also see the fullness of the truth and of the revelation. This fullness is in Christ Jesus and it is Christ Jesus. Not only does God reveal himself in Christ Jesus in a full and permanent way, he also shows himself in an exhaustive and perfect way. Whoever sees Christ Jesus sees the reign of God fulfilling on our earth, hears the truth descending from heaven, sees the grace conquering hearts. Christ Jesus is the purity and the holiness of God among his people. Christ Jesus is God himself come into flesh to manifest us the fullness of the love of the Father. Their eyes are blessed since they hear God speaking in a human voice. This grace is granted only to them. Neither in the past nor in the future, no man will ever find himself before such a fullness of mystery revealed and acted, manifested and proclaimed, consumed until the absolute perfection.**

**Sure. The Apostles do not fully know the mystery of Jesus yet. The Holy Spirit has not revealed it to them yet. It will fully reveal it through the Apostle Paul first: “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavens, as he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and without blemish before him. In love he destined us for adoption to himself through Jesus Christ, in accord with the favor of his will, for the praise of the glory of his grace that he granted us in the beloved. In him we have redemption by his blood, the forgiveness of transgressions, in accord with the riches of his grace that he lavished upon us. In all wisdom and insight, he has made known to us the mystery of his will in accord with his favor that he set forth in him as a plan for the fullness of times, to sum up all things in Christ, in heaven and on earth. In him we were also chosen, destined in accord with the purpose of the one who accomplishes all things according to the intention of his will, so that we might exist for the praise of his glory, we who first hoped in Christ. In him you also, who have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and have believed in him, were sealed with the promised holy Spirit, which is the first installment of our inheritance toward redemption as God's possession, to the praise of his glory.” (Eph 1, 3-14)**

**With the Apostle John, the mystery of Christ Jesus is revealed to the highest of its completeness: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.** **And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.** **From his fullness we have all received, grace in place of grace, because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. The only Son, God, who is at the Father's side, has revealed him.” (cf. Jn 1, 1-18) Not only can the Mystery of Christ Jesus be known today. It is also possible to be part of this mystery. Through the new birth from water and Holy Spirit, one becomes body of Christ and in Christ participant of the divine nature.**

**Let us read the text of Mt 13,16-17**

**"But blessed are your eyes, because they see, and your ears, because they hear. Amen, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.”**

**The entire Old Testament is waiting of these days. Not only is it prophecy of Christ Jesus, it is also waiting for Him. It is waiting for hearing and for seeing the fulfilment of every promise made to God and his people. This modality of presence of God is unique. It must be lived in a unique time. Only the Apostles had this grace of living in this unique time in this unique modality of presence by God. This is the reason of their beatitude. It is as if they were the end and also the starting point of the event of Christ Jesus. With them, the time of waiting is over.**

**With them the time of the realization of the promises begins. With them, the Old testament ends and the New one begins. With them, a history ends and another one begins. The particular history ends, the universal history of the salvation begins. With them one leaves a people, one enters all the people. This moment is only theirs. It will not happen anymore. They must understand the great grace the Lord made to them. They must enter the mystery of the truth wrapping them. For this reason, they are blessed. They are blessed more than every other man in the world. More blessed of those who preceded them and more blessed of those who will follow them. Only to them Christ Jesus, God in person, has revealed the mystery of the reign and only to them, he manifested in the history how one edifies the reign of God in fullness of truth and of holiness. They are blessed since Jesus can explain everything to them. They are his friend.**

**Here is what Jesus says of Abraham: The Jews answered and said to him, "Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and are possessed?" Jesus answered, "I am not possessed; I honor my Father, but you dishonor me. I do not seek my own glory; there is one who seeks it and he is the one who judges. Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever keeps my word will never see death." (So) the Jews said to him, "Now we are sure that you are possessed. Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, 'Whoever keeps my word will never taste death.' Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? Or the prophets, who died? Who do you make yourself out to be?" Jesus answered, "If I glorify myself, my glory is worth nothing; but it is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, 'He is our God.' You do not know him, but I know him. And if I should say that I do not know him, I would be like you a liar. But I do know him and I keep his word. Abraham your father rejoiced to see my day; he saw it and was glad. So the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old and you have seen Abraham?" Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, before Abraham came to be, I AM." So they picked up stones to throw at him; but Jesus hid and went out of the temple area. (Jn 8, 48-59)**

**To Abraham it has been granted to see only one of the days of the Son of man and he rejoiced of indescribable joy. What should our joy be, of us who nourish ourselves of Christ Jesus in the Sacrament of the Eucharist and become his body for the Baptism? Instead, we live as if nothing happened! Great insensibility!**

**Here is what the Holy Spirit reveals by the mouth of the Apostle Paul about the prophets of the Old Testament:** “**Concerning this salvation, prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and investigated it, investigating the time and circumstances that the Spirit of Christ within them indicated when it testified in advance to the sufferings destined for Christ and the glories to follow them. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you with regard to the things that have now been announced to you by those who preached the good news to you (through) the holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels longed to look.” (1Pt 1, 10-12)**

**The gifts made to us by the Holy Spirit are most high. For every gift received, tomorrow we will be called to judgement. May the Mother of God help us. We do not want to waste any gift of grace and truth. We want to give Christ Jesus all the space of our heart.**