**08 AUGUST 2021 – XIX WEEK O.T. [B]**

**“I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world."**

**The Gospel according to John, and especially the Chapter VI, is founded on one only principle: “Jesus answered them and said, "Amen, amen, I say to you, you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate the loaves and were filled. Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him the Father, God, has set his seal." So they said to him, "What can we do to accomplish the works of God?" Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in the one he sent." (Jn 6, 26-29) The Father set his seal on his Son. The seal is the Holy Spirit. This means that the Word of the Son is the Word of the Father and the Word of the Father is the Word of the Son. What is the work the Jews have to do? Believing in Christ Jesus who is the sealed of the Father. Without this faith, no work of God might be accomplished.**

**This same truth is announced to us by the Letter to Hebrews: “In times past, God spoke in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the prophets; in these last days, he spoke to us through a son, whom he made heir of all things and through whom he created the universe, who is the refulgence of his glory, the very imprint of his being, and who sustains all things by his mighty word. When he had accomplished purification from sins, he took his seat at the right hand of the Majesty on high, as far superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. (Hb 1, 1-4) Before this truth of Christ Jesus – He is the sealed by the Father in the Holy Spirit – the Jews murmur. They refuse to believe. Why do they not believe? Because they let themselves be deceived by appearances.** “**And they said, "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph? Do we not know his father and mother? Then how can he say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" Judging by appearances is bringing death to the true faith. If we see Jesus by what appears, He is a man as the other men, even though he is the most exalted, the greatest of men sent by God. However, if for a moment we go to the mountain of transfiguration, then we will see the glory of the divinity that is hidden in the humility of his mortal flesh:** “**After six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them. Then Elijah appeared to them along with Moses, and they were conversing with Jesus.” (Mk 9, 2-4)**

**Jesus has always warned the Jews so that they did not judge by appearances but justly: “When the feast was already half over, Jesus went up into the temple area and began to teach. The Jews were amazed and said, "How does he know scripture without having studied?" Jesus answered them and said, "My teaching is not my own but is from the one who sent me. Whoever chooses to do his will shall know whether my teaching is from God or whether I speak on my own. Whoever speaks on his own seeks his own glory, but whoever seeks the glory of the one who sent him is truthful, and there is no wrong in him. Did not Moses give you the law? Yet none of you keeps the law. Why are you trying to kill me?" The crowd answered, "You are possessed! Who is trying to kill you?" Jesus answered and said to them, "I performed one work and all of you are amazed because of it. Moses gave you circumcision - not that it came from Moses but rather from the patriarchs - and you circumcise a man on the sabbath. If a man can receive circumcision on a sabbath so that the law of Moses may not be broken, are you angry with me because I made a whole person well on a sabbath? Stop judging by appearances, but judge justly." (Jn 7,14-24). Let us ask ourselves: could these Jews have judged justly? Yes, they could, as they had confessed, after the multiplication of the loaves, that Jesus is the Prophet who is to come:** “**When the people saw the sign he had done, they said, "This is truly the Prophet, the one who is to come into the world." Since Jesus knew that they were going to come and carry him off to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain alone.” (Jn 6, 14-15) It is not Jesus who reveals himself to be the prophet who is to come. The Jews are the ones who publically confess that Jesus is the prophet promised by Moses: "A prophet like me will the LORD, your God, raise up for you from among your own kinsmen; to him you shall listen. This is exactly what you requested of the LORD, your God, at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, 'Let us not again hear the voice of the LORD, our God, nor see this great fire any more, lest we die.' And the LORD said to me, 'This was well said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their kinsmen, and will put my words into his mouth; he shall tell them all that I command him. If any man will not listen to my words which he speaks in my name, I myself will make him answer for it. But if a prophet presumes to speak in my name an oracle that I have not commanded him to speak, or speaks in the name of other gods, he shall die.'(Dt 18,15-20). Jesus speaks of a future that will always be fulfilled in the invisibility. For this reason a most strong and unwavering faith in his Word is necessary. Either one believes that He is the sealed by the Father in the Holy Spirit, or all words are words of a man and not of God and this is what is happening within the Church today. Having many Christians lost the faith in the mystery of Christ Jesus and in this seal of the Father, they make Him only a son of a carpenter. Logic of yesterday. Who is Jesus for many Christians today? A humble son of a carpenter. A person like all the others. Not only does one deny the invisible of Him, but one wants to deny the visible, too. One wants to deny that visible that his works are and also that visible that his death by crucifixion is. Death fruit of the confession of his truth.**

**Let us read the text of Jn 6,42-51**

**The Jews murmured about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven," and they said, "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph? Do we not know his father and mother? Then how can he say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" Jesus answered and said to them, "Stop murmuring among yourselves. No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draw him, and I will raise him on the last day. It is written in the prophets: 'They shall all be taught by God.' Everyone who listens to my Father and learns from him comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, but they died; this is the bread that comes down from heaven so that one may eat it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world."**

**Jesus lets the murmurings remain murmurings. He goes on in carrying on the work the Father gave him to do. What does this work involve? In giving his flesh to be eaten and his blood to be drunk to all the faithful in his name. “I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world." It is no longer a matter of eating Christ Jesus, Word of the Father, to have the life. One has to really eat Him, one has to eat his flesh. In order that the Jews accept this mystery, they have to deny all their tradition and all their legislation ruling every moment of their life. They have to pass from Moses to Christ. A most powerful conversion is urgent that is only work of the Holy Spirit. But they are too full of themselves to accept the mystery. Either one thinks that Jesus is the sealed by the Father in the Holy Spirit and that each of his Word is true, or one will always make him a humble son of a carpenter. May the Mother of God make us of true faith. We want to cry out to the world that Jesus is the only sealed by the Father.**