**MONDAY AUGUST 09 – XIX WEEK O.T. [B]**

**SAINT TERESA BENEDICTA OF THE CROSS**

**Afterwards the other virgins came and said, 'Lord, Lord, open the door for us!' But he said in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.' Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour.**

**Every man’s life is made up of many fragments, that we call minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, years. It is sufficient that we place the first of the fragments, that is the minute, out of the Word of God and all our life enters a process of death that is irreversible. The irreversibility is not only for us, it is also for all those ones who are involved in this fragment. The first woman lived a fragment of her life placing herself out of the Word of the Lord: it was the death for all the humankind. Not only did she live her fragment out of the Word of the Lord, she tempted and seduced the first man so that he, too, placed himself out of the Word of the Lord.**

**“Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the animals that the LORD God had made. The serpent asked the woman, "Did God really tell you not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?" The woman answered the serpent: "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; it is only about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden that God said, 'You shall not eat it or even touch it, lest you die.'" But the serpent said to the woman: "You certainly will not die! No, God knows well that the moment you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods who know what is good and what is bad." The woman saw that the tree was good for food, pleasing to the eyes, and desirable for gaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized that they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.”(Gen 3, 1-7)**

**Because of this fragment lived in the disobedience, death entered the humanity and for many ones it will be turned into eternal death. This truth should help us understand how great the responsibility of the single person is, not only for his own life, but for the life of the entire world. Because of one of our fragment lived against the Gospel we may bring serious disasters for the entire world. One of our decision saves and one of our decision introduces the death in the world.**

**The Apostle Paul, in the Letter to Romans, puts, in a most clear divine light, what were the fruits of disobedience of Adam and those of the obedience of Jesus the Lord: “Therefore, just as through one person sin entered the world, and through sin, death, and thus death came to all, inasmuch as all sinned for up to the time of the law, sin was in the world, though sin is not accounted when there is no law. But death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin after the pattern of the trespass of Adam, who is the type of the one who was to come. But the gift is not like the transgression. For if by that one person's transgression the many died, how much more did the grace of God and the gracious gift of the one person Jesus Christ overflow for the many. And the gift is not like the result of the one person's sinning. For after one sin there was the judgment that brought condemnation; but the gift, after many transgressions, brought acquittal. For if, by the transgression of one person, death came to reign through that one, how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of justification come to reign in life through the one person Jesus Christ. In conclusion, just as through one transgression condemnation came upon all, so through one righteous act acquittal and life came to all. For just as through the disobedience of one person the many were made sinners, so through the obedience of one the many will be made righteous. The law entered in so that transgression might increase but, where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through justification for eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Rm 5,12-21).**

**What is the great difference between these two fragments of our history lived by Adam and by Christ Jesus? With Adam, one enters the death for birth, for descendance from him and one remains in the death forever, walking from death to death. With Jesus, instead, one enters the mystery of the new life for will and the will must be not only of every single person but the will, too, must be placed in the Gospel in every moment, every minute, every hour, every day, every week, every month, every year. Every fragment of our life will have to be brought into the most pure and holy obedience to the Gospel. If we take our obedience away from the Gospel, we remain in the death and, from it, we may get through this only for most pure grace of Jesus the Lord. Today this truth has failed. Today the Christian wants to live in the great sin of adultery, of the betrayal of Christ Jesus; he even wants to consume all his life in the great sin of prostitution that is the handover to the thought of this world, affirming that, at the moment of death, one will celebrate a marriage of eternal love with his Lord and God. This thought reduces the entire Word of the Lord to a lie. It makes only a tale of it, like all the other tales that are narrated this way. Instead, we know that the Lord always watches over his Word so that it bears that for which it was sent on our earth. Let no one be deluded: what the Word says is always fulfilled on earth and in eternity.**

**Let us read the text of Mt 25,1-13**

**"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones, when taking their lamps, brought no oil with them, but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps. Since the bridegroom was long delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep. At midnight, there was a cry, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise ones replied, 'No, for there may not be enough for us and you. Go instead to the merchants and buy some for yourselves.' While they went off to buy it, the bridegroom came and those who were ready went into the wedding feast with him. Then the door was locked. Afterwards the other virgins came and said, 'Lord, Lord, open the door for us!' But he said in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.' Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour.**

**In light of the above about the fragments of our life, the five foolish virgins take their lamp, but they do not bring the oil with them. What fruit does this fragment lived in the foolishness bear? At the moment when they are supposed to be in the procession accompanying the groom in the banquet room, they are around the town to buy the oil. But there is another fragment that does not depend on their will. The door of the banquet room is closed. They knock. But one cannot enter it anymore. The reply is lapidary: 'Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.' From it, the warning for each of us: Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour.**

**Against the entire Word of the Lord, against the entire Revelation, against the entire Tradition of the Church, against the entire Sound Doctrine, against the entire Deposit of faith, today we cry out that at the end everyone will be embraced by the mercy of the Lord. But it is not the mercy revealed by the Lord. For the foolish virgins there is no mercy. The door is not opened. This is the evangelic mercy: if you do not bring all the fragments of your life into the Gospel, first with conversion and then with sanctification, you will not enter the reign of heaven. “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.” (Mt 10,32-33). When one lives the religion without the Gospel, it is no longer the religion of Christ Jesus. Instead, it is the religion of Satan. May the Mother of Jesus bring us into the true religion, the religion that is most pure obedience to the Gospel.**