**THURSDAY AUGUST 26 – XXI WEEK O.T. [B]**

**So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come**

**Since no one knows when the Son of man comes, and He may come in every moment, it urges the obligation always to be ready. Jesus says it: Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come. Not only do we not know which day, we do not even know what time of the day. The moment after is always of God. We must live with this truth.**

**But what is the reason why we must stay awake? We must stay awake since our Lord comes for the judgement. He comes to open the gates of eternity, he comes to tear us from this earth. If we are not found in his justice and truth, for us the gates of perdition are opened. If the truth of the eternal perdition is cancelled, declared not truth, then staying or not staying awake has no sense. Our Lord comes, opens the gates of his Paradise, he welcomes us in his eternal dwelling.**

**The master of the house does not know the hour of night when the thief comes, it is an image that is needed to reveal the non-knowledge of the day and the time of the coming of the Son of man. One stays awake for an entire year. Then he stops to stay awake, he abandons himself to evil, the Lord comes and he is found in injustice. Jesus invites us to reflect, to try to understand. If the master of the house knew what time of the night the thief comes, he would stay awake and he would not let his house be burgled. Instead, he knows nothing of the thief. He falls asleep. The thief comes. The master of the household can fall asleep. He only loses the properties of this world. Man might never fall asleep. His eternity depends on it. For one only distraction one can find himself in hell and wail the moment of foolishness and ignorance forever. It urges to be vigilant.**

**We are warned. So be ready because, at the time you do not imagine, the Son of man comes. The Son of man comes for the judgement. One dies. One leaves earth. One enters eternity with no return back. Eternity is not only made up of paradise. It is made up of blessing and cursing, of death and eternal life, of the house of God and the house of devil. We must be ready so that we may be welcomed in the house of God and enjoy his glory eternally. If the Son of man comes and finds us in the house of devil, that is the house of disobedience and of sin, of injustice and idolatry, he might never lead us to the house of God and we will end up in the house of devil in eternity. Whoever does not want to end up in the house of devil for eternity must put every care, vigilance, attention so that he always remains on earth in the house of God, that is the house of truth, of justice, of holiness, of obedience to the Gospel.**

**Let us read the text of Mt 24,42-51**

**Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come. Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour of night when the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and not let his house be broken into. So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come. "Who, then, is the faithful and prudent servant, whom the master has put in charge of his household to distribute to them their food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master on his arrival finds doing so. Amen, I say to you, he will put him in charge of all his property. But if that wicked servant says to himself, 'My master is long delayed,' and begins to beat his fellow servants, and eat and drink with drunkards, the servant's master will come on an unexpected day and at an unknown hour and will punish him severely and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.**

**Jesus offers us another image to teach us what vigilance is and how it must be lived. Who is the faithful and prudent servant whom the master has put in charge of his household to distribute to them their food at the proper time? In the house of the master, there are many servants. The master of the house takes a faithful and prudent servant and puts him in charge of his household. He gives him very precise orders. He will have to govern the household. These are the received orders. The faithful and prudent servant will have to obey them with no distraction or inattention. The fidelity to the safekeeping is all for the servant. Upon his obedience, the efficient running of the household depends.**

**If the servant has acted according to the received assignments, he will be blessed. The master of the house will come, he will observe everything, he will note that the servant has executed each of his commands. He acted according to his will. He is a servant one can count on. Fidelity is a most precious gift for a man. One can trust a servant faithful to the received commands. The master of the house will never be disappointed. What he commands, the servant will always turn it into perfect obedience. Here is the award due to fidelity. Amen, I say to you, he will put him in charge of all his property. The servant was first evaluated by the master of the house: faithful and prudent. He is tested: he still results faithful and prudent. History attests that the master can count on this servant. If one can trust, one can put him in charge of all his property. As he obeyed first, so he will obey even later. Everything is put in the hands of the servant for his fidelity.**

**However, the servant might even result unfaithful and imprudent. Until this day he may even have lied before the master. But the moment of the historical test comes. Each of us can lie in words. History unveils all the thoughts of the heart. The servant, believed, thought, evaluated as faithful and prudent, now manifests his hidden heart, namely he reveals himself to be wicked. He takes advantage of the present moment to allow himself every disobedience, thinking of a delay of the master. It is on this delay that the word of Jesus is insisting. Delay is measurable by no one. A moment before, the master is far away. A moment later, he is already at home. The reasons of the sudden return do not belong to the servant.**

**The servant, thinking of the delay, considers himself as master of the house of his lord and begin to beat his fellow servant and eat and drink with drunkards. From faithful servant he became unfaithful. From faithful servant he made himself master. This is the mistake of men: from obedient they make themselves disobedient, from creatures they make themselves creators of their life, from servant they raise themselves to lords. They take the place of God, but they do not act by the truth of God. Instead, they operate by falsity. Might the one who is not God by nature and eternal essence ever act as God? He lacks in wisdom, truth, omnipotence, charity, love, justice, fidelity. He can always take the place of the master, he will always lack in the wisdom of the master.**

**The master comes on a day where he does not expect it and at a time he does not know. When the master comes, he sees the servant in the foolishness, falsity, deceit, infidelity, injustice, arrogance, vice. He is not a faithful and prudent servant. History does just that. Unveiling the thought of mind, showing the reality of heart, to highlight what is hidden in us. The test of the history is hard to overcome. It is our true melting pot. The one who passes the test of history is saved. The one who fails the test will lose eternity. Without history, by books, by papers, we are all faithful, prudent, wise. History comes and it reveals the secrets of heart and mind. History comes and we are all milled. Everything is in full light**

**History unveiled this man in his wickedness, evil, foolishness, ignorance, vice. Might the master, seeing his terrible condition in which this man lives, ever put him in charge of his household? The Lord has come. He has seen. His decision cannot be but one: He will punish him strictly and He will inflict him the fate hypocrites deserve: there will be wailing and grinding of teeth. In this verse is our eternity of perdition. The entire speech of Jesus about the last things has the foundation upon this eternal truth. Since today one wants to cancel this verse from the Gospel, every other word lose its validity, true, wisdom, intelligence, revelation. May the Mother of God, the Wise Virgin, the Mother rich in faith and every fidelity to the Lord, make us faithful for all days of our life. With Her aside, we will surely result faithful.**