***While the Lord worked with them***

**ASCENSION OF OUR LORD MAY 16 (Mk 16, 15-20)**

In front of Moses there is the Red Sea which cannot be crossed on foot. Behind him are the chariots of the pharaoh advancing to bring the people back into slavery. The people do not see God and murmur against Moses: *“Pharaoh was already near when the Israelites looked up and saw that the Egyptians were on the march in pursuit of them. In great fright they cried out to the LORD. And they complained to Moses, "Were there no burial places in Egypt that you had to bring us out here to die in the desert? Why did you do this to us? Why did you bring us out of Egypt? Did we not tell you this in Egypt, when we said, 'Leave us alone. Let us serve the Egyptians'? Far better for us to be the slaves of the Egyptians than to die in the desert. " But Moses answered the people, "Fear not! Stand your ground, and you will see the victory the LORD will win for you today. These Egyptians whom you see today you will never see again. The LORD himself will fight for you; you have only to keep still. " (Ex 14, 10-14).* Without God there is no salvation and no liberation.

But with Moses is the Lord, his God. Here is what the Lord says to his servant: *"Then the LORD said to Moses," Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. And you, lift up your staff and, with hand outstretched over the sea, split the sea in two, that the Israelites may pass through it on dry land. But I will make the Egyptians so obstinate that they will go in after them. Then I will receive glory through Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots and charioteers. The Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I receive glory through Pharaoh and his chariots and charioteers. "Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the LORD swept the sea with a strong east wind throughout the night and so turned it into dry land. When the water was thus divided, the Israelites marched into the midst of the sea on dry land, with the water like a wall to their right and to their left. The Egyptians followed in pursuit; all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and charioteers went after them right into the midst of the sea. Then the LORD told Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may flow back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and their charioteers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea flowed back to its normal depth. The Egyptians were fleeing head on toward the sea, when the LORD hurled them into its midst. As the water flowed back, it covered the chariots and the charioteers of Pharaoh's whole army which had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not a single one of them escaped. But the Israelites had marched on dry land through the midst of the sea, with the water like a wall to their right and to their left. "(Ex 14, 15-29).*The Lord not only gives the solution of salvation, it is he who creates it. He creates it through his servant Moses. Let us imagine for a single moment that Moses was not with God or that God was not with Moses. The children of Israel would be brought you back into slavery. For them there would be no deliverance, no salvation. God and Moses must always walk together.

*He said to them, "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned. These signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will drive out demons, they will speak new languages. They will pick up serpents (with their hands), and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not harm them. They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover. " So then the Lord Jesus, after he spoke to them, was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God. But they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word through accompanying signs.)*

Jesus sends his disciples to free men from the slavery of Satan, slavery to sin, death, darkness, enslavement to evil. No man, not even the most intelligent, wise, holy, will ever be able to free another man from the slavery of the prince of the world. For this reason, the disciples must always walk with Jesus and Jesus always with his disciples. When will Jesus walk with his disciples? When they walk to obey his command of love. When they walk obeying also his Word, his Gospel, allowing themselves to be led by the Holy Spirit to the whole truth. When we remain in obedience, the Lord walks with us.

Mother of the Redemption, Angels, Saints, let us always walk with the Lord.