**FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 02 – XXII WEEK O.T. [C]**

**Likewise, no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the new wine will burst the skins, and it will be spilled, and the skins will be ruined. Rather, new wine must be poured into fresh wineskins**

**The Father is the new wineskin. Christ Jesus is the new wineskin. The Holy Spirit is the new wineskin. In the Father, in the Son and in the Holy Spirit, his Church, one, holy, Catholic, apostolic, must keep itself new wineskin. In the Church, one, holy, Catholic, apostolic, each of his member must also keep himself and grow as a new wineskin: popes, bishops, presbyters, deacons, baptized, confirmed. If one does not keep the Church as a new wineskin, that walks from news to news, all its children are in danger to turn themselves in old wineskins. If one does not keep the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit as a new wineskin, the Church is in danger of becoming an old wineskin. This is the mission of every disciple of Jesus: keeping Christ Jesus as an always most new wineskin. Keeping Christ Jesus as a most new wineskin, one might keep every disciple of Jesus as a new wineskin. Here is what the Apostle Paul reveals to the Corinthians who had turned Jesus the Lord into an old wineskin: “But if Christ is preached as raised from the dead, how can some among you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then neither has Christ been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then empty (too) is our preaching; empty, too, your faith. Then we are also false witnesses to God, because we testified against God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, neither has Christ been raised, and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is vain; you are still in your sins. Then those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are the most pitiable people of all.” (1Cor 15,12-19). If today we are all getting tired and are vainly consuming our spiritual and also material energies to turn the most new wineskin that is Christ into an old wineskin and, moreover, lacerated, split, with holes in it, the prophecy of Haggai is fulfilled for us: “Is it time for you to dwell in your own paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins? Now thus says the LORD of hosts: Consider your ways! You have sown much, but have brought in little; you have eaten, but have not been satisfied; You have drunk, but have not been exhilarated; have clothed yourselves, but not been warmed; And he who earned wages earned them for a bag with holes in it. Thus says the LORD of hosts: Consider your ways! Go up into the hill country; bring timber, and build the house That I may take pleasure in it and receive my glory, says the LORD. You expected much, but it came to little; and what you brought home, I blew away. For what cause? says the LORD of hosts. Because my house lies in ruins, while each of you hurries to his own house. Therefore the heavens withheld from you their dew, and the earth her crops. And I called for a drought upon the land and upon the mountains; Upon the grain, and upon the wine, and upon the oil, and upon all that the ground brings forth; Upon men and upon beasts, and upon all that is produced by hand.” (Hag 1,4-11). The dwelling of the Lord, the temple of the living God that we must build up again Christ Jesus today, by now under the heavy hammering of the most dangerous falsities and heresies. If Jesus, new wineskin, is not placed in the Church in his most pure truth, we too will put all the fruit of our sweat in a bag with holes in it. We will work for the nothingness. We will always get tired in vain. We will waste each of our energy.**

**Let us read the text of Lk 5,33-39**

**And they said to him, "The disciples of John fast often and offer prayers, and the disciples of the Pharisees do the same; but yours eat and drink." Jesus answered them, "Can you make the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come, and when the bridegroom is taken away from them, then they will fast in those days." And he also told them a parable. "No one tears a piece from a new cloak to patch an old one. Otherwise, he will tear the new and the piece from it will not match the old cloak. Likewise, no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the new wine will burst the skins, and it will be spilled, and the skins will be ruined. Rather, new wine must be poured into fresh wineskins. (And) no one who has been drinking old wine desires new, for he says, 'The old is good.'"**

**The Gospel of Christ Jesus is the new wineskin. In this new wineskin we must always keep the new wine that is the new creature born of water and Holy Spirit. If we take away the Gospel from this new wineskin, we work for the eternal perdition. If we do not put every man in this new wineskin of the Gospel from which one enters the new wineskin that is the Church, from which one enters the new wineskin of the Holy Spirit, of Christ Jesus and of the Father, we always work for the uselessness and we will always put the sweats of our labours in a bag with holes in it. It would be enough to observe how much wage sweated from our labour has remained in our bag with holes in it at the end of the day and we will immediately convince ourselves that we are working for the nothingness. However, in order to have this wisdom we must dwell in the always-new wineskin of the Gospel. Since we have almost all moved into the old wineskin of the mind-set of this world, then for us seeing that the bag is empty is impossible. May the Mother of Jesus help us to see our empty wineskin. May She obtain for us the grace of making us new wineskins.**