**WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 23 – XXXIV WEEK [C]**

**You will even be handed over by parents, brothers, relatives, and friends, and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name, but not a hair on your head will be destroyed. By your perseverance you will secure your lives.**

**Jesus has never deceived any man. He has not deceived his disciples either. Immediately after having called and constituted them reveals them what their life will be if they follow Him. He is the Crucified and they will be crucified. He is the Hated by the world and they will be hated. He is the Persecuted for the justice and they will also be persecuted for the justice. He is calumniated, insulted, derided, spitted, beaten, condemned and they will also be be calumniated, insulted, derided, spitted, beaten and condemned. He will be executed and they will also be executed. Thus in the Gospel according to Matthew: "Behold, I am sending you like sheep in the midst of wolves; so be shrewd as serpents and simple as doves. But beware of people, for they will hand you over to courts and scourge you in their synagogues, and you will be led before governors and kings for my sake as a witness before them and the pagans. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say. You will be given at that moment what you are to say. For it will not be you who speak but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will hand over brother to death, and the father his child; children will rise up against parents and have them put to death. You will be hated by all because of my name, but whoever endures to the end will be saved. When they persecute you in one town, flee to another. Amen, I say to you, you will not finish the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes. No disciple is above his teacher, no slave above his master. It is enough for the disciple that he become like his teacher, for the slave that he become like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more those of his household! "Therefore do not be afraid of them. Nothing is concealed that will not be revealed, nor secret that will not be known. What I say to you in the darkness, speak in the light; what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna. Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father's knowledge. Even all the hairs of your head are counted. So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. 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, 16-33). When Jesus says that brother will hand over brother to death, it is not about brothers according to flesh, as it happened for Cain and Abel, but also of brothers according to faith, brother by baptism, by confirmation, by every other sacrament. Jesus has been persecuted by his brothers. Jesus has been persecuted by his brothers according to faith and the Christian will also be persecuted, even killed, by his brothers according to faith. Wolf is not only the man according to flesh, even the man according to faith might become wolf. One may even participate to the Eucharistic table both as officiants and as faithful and be wolves for those who are our brothers according to faith and according to the sacrament. Thus the high sacrament of love and of communion becomes eating and drinking our condemnation, if the communion is only hypocrisy and not most pure reality of our life. Sometimes it is not even hypocrisy. One does not hide the nature of wolves according to faith either.**

**Let us read the text of Lk 21,12-19**

**Before all this happens, however, they will seize and persecute you, they will hand you over to the synagogues and to prisons, and they will have you led before kings and governors because of my name. It will lead to your giving testimony. Remember, you are not to prepare your defense beforehand, for I myself shall give you a wisdom in speaking that all your adversaries will be powerless to resist or refute. You will even be handed over by parents, brothers, relatives, and friends, and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name, but not a hair on your head will be destroyed. By your perseverance you will secure your lives.**

**What does perseverance in this world of wolves consist of? Wolves according to flesh and wolves according to faith and according to the received sacrament? It is remaining steadfast in the Word of Christ Jesus and in every motion and inspiration of the Holy Spirit, in each of his spiritual gift vocation, mission, without never deviate neither on the right nor on the left. It is will of never changing thought: from the thought of Christ Jesus moving to the thought of men. Never changing ministry: from the ministry according to the Holy Spirit to the ministry according to men. It finally consists of not changing God: from the living and true God, from the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, one must never move to the worship of the modern idol that is the unique God. Our Almighty God is One in nature and Trinitarian in the Persons. Our Saviour and Redeemer is the Only Begotten Son of the Father who through the work of the Holy Spirit has made himself man in the womb of the Virgin Mary. Our Giver of every life is the Holy Spirit. If we change God, we have not persevered in the most pure faith. For us there is no salvation of our life. Mother of God, make us perseverant.**