**AUGUST 2017**

## FIRST DECADE OF AUGUST

# The weeds are the children of the evil one

# Ex 33,7-11; 34,5-9.28; Ps 102,6-13; Mt 13,36-43.

### 1 AUGUST

All Sacred History confirms the truth of this parable of Jesus: good grain and weeds always live in the same field. Rather, often the good grain is immersed in a field entirely sown with weeds. But it is always called to remain good grain. Only good grain is picked up in the barns of God. The weeds will be burnt.

Abel, good grain, lives with Cain, the true weed of death. Noah, the right one, lives in a corrupt world. Abraham is called to dwell in a land of idolaters. Lot dwells in a corrupt and sinful city. Joseph is in the midst of envious, murderers, violent and wicked brothers. Moses exercises his ministry of God's mediator in a hostile, distrustful people unable to open themselves to true faith. All the prophets are sent to proclaim and to give back the Word of the Lord to an immoral and idolatrous people. The same Jesus Christ comes, he, the Son of God, the weeds, grown beyond measure, raise him up on a cross. Good grain and weeds will always be in the same field until the advent of new heavens and a new earth. Only then will eternal separation occur. In his prayer, Jesus remembers this truth and asks the Father to guard his own from the evil one. They are in the field of weeds and they must stay there.

*I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for the ones you have given me, because they are yours, and everything of mine is yours and everything of yours is mine, and I have been glorified in them. And now I will no longer be in the world, but they are in the world, while I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one just as we are. When I was with them I protected them in your name that you gave me, and I guarded them, and none of them was lost except the son of destruction, in order that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you. I speak this in the world so that they may share my joy completely. I gave them your word, and the world hated them, because they do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world but that you keep them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. Consecrate them in the truth. Your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I sent them into the world. And I consecrate myself for them, so that they also may be consecrated in truth. "I pray not only for them, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me (Jn 17,9-21).*

Satan tempts so that the good grain turns into weeds. The incessant prayer, elevated to the Father with the heart of Christ, keeps the disciples of Jesus from the Evil one and prevents them from becoming weeds. Jesus was tempted to become weeds until the tree of the cross. But he always remained good grain in the field of God. He never fell into a single temptation, not even of a thought or desire or word that was said out of place or out of context. Satan never had power over Him.

*Then, dismissing the crowds, he went into the house. His disciples approached him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field." He said in reply, "He who sows good seed is the Son of Man, the field is the world, the good seed the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. Just as weeds are collected and burned (up) with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all who cause others to sin and all evildoers. They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears ought to hear.*

Separation will take place with death for those who leave this land. It will be stable, definitive, eternal and universal at the time of the Parusia of Jesus the Lord. With universal judgment, good grain will be brought by the Angels into the barns of Heaven. The weeds will be harvested and burnt in the unquenchable fire for eternity. This Word of Jesus is immutable. Nobody might ever cancel, abrogate and abolish it.

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints make us of true faith in the Word.

# Sells all that he has and buys that field

# Ex 34,29-35; Ps 98,5-7.9; Mt 13,44-46.

### 2 AUGUST

It is sufficient to hear what Solomon reveals on the value of wisdom and we will infinitely comprehend more what Jesus reveals on the preciousness of the kingdom of God.

*I too am a mortal man, the same as all the rest, and a descendant of the first man formed on earth. And in my mother's womb I was moulded into flesh in a ten-months' period-body and blood, from the seed of man, and the pleasure that accompanies marriage. And I too, when born, inhaled the common air, and fell upon the kindred earth; wailing, I uttered that first sound common to all. In swaddling clothes and with constant care I was nurtured. For no king has any different origin or birth, but one is the entry into life for all; and in one same way they leave it. Therefore I prayed, and prudence was given me; I pleaded and the spirit of Wisdom came to me. I preferred her to sceptre and throne, And deemed riches nothing in comparison with her, nor did I liken any priceless gem to her; Because all gold, in view of her, is a little sand, and before her, silver is to be accounted mire. Beyond health and comeliness I loved her, And I chose to have her rather than the light, because the splendour of her never yields to sleep. Yet all good things together came to me in her company, and countless riches at her hands; And I rejoiced in them all, because Wisdom is their leader, though I had not known that she is the mother of these. Simply I learned about her, and ungrudgingly do I share - her riches I do not hide away; For to men she is an unfailing treasure; those who gain this treasure win the friendship of God, to whom the gifts they have from discipline commend them. Now God grant I speak suitably and value these endowments at their worth: For he is the guide of Wisdom and the director of the wise. For both we and our words are in his hand, as well as all prudence and knowledge of crafts. For he gave me sound knowledge of existing things,*

*that I might know the organization of the universe and the force of its elements, The beginning and the end and the midpoint of times, the changes in the sun's course and the variations of the seasons. Cycles of years, positions of the stars, natures of animals, tempers of beasts, Powers of the winds and thoughts of men, uses of plants and virtues of roots - Such things as are hidden I learned and such as are plain; for Wisdom, the artificer of all, taught me. For in her is a spirit intelligent, holy, unique, Manifold, subtle, agile, clear, unstained, certain, Not baneful, loving the good, keen, unhampered, beneficent, kindly, Firm, secure, tranquil, all-powerful, all-seeing, And pervading all spirits, though they be intelligent, pure and very subtle. For Wisdom is mobile beyond all motion, and she penetrates and pervades all things by reason of her purity. For she is an aura of the might of God and a pure effusion of the glory of the Almighty; therefore nought that is sullied enters into her. For she is the refulgence of eternal light, the spotless mirror of the power of God, the image of his goodness. And she, who is one, can do all things, and renews everything while herself perduring; And passing into holy souls from age to age, she produces friends of God and prophets. For there is nought God loves, be it not one who dwells with Wisdom. For she is fairer than the sun and surpasses every constellation of the stars. Compared to light, she takes precedence; for that, indeed, night supplants, but wickedness prevails not over Wisdom (Wis 7,1-30).*

 The kingdom of God is God himself who comes to dwell in the heart of man, through the heart of Christ, through the work and communion of the Holy Spirit. God has no price. All the value of the things in the world are nothing compared to the preciousness of our God. Jesus says that our body must also be given in order to possess the kingdom.

*"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls. When he finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells all that he has and buys it.*

It would be already enough to compare eternity and time so that all that is of time, including also our physical life, is *"sold"* to buy eternity. Living even in a golden palace for a microsecond - so much is time in relation to eternity - and living in God forever, there is no choice. The choice is among same things. Between the momentary, the ephemeral and the eternal there is no choice. Eternity and God assert themselves.

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints make us a holocaust for the Kingdom.

# Like a net thrown into the sea

# Mt 13,47-53.

### 3 AUGUST

The fact that the world does not believe in the Word of Christ Jesus poses no problem. It is world for it is without the Word, out of the Word, often against the Word. The fact that the Christian does not believe in the Word is a very serious matter. His non-faith leaves the world in the blindness, in the idolatry, in the immorality. In the Old Testament the Lord has always declared his people blind and deaf, incapable of seeing the Lord in the history and of listening to his Word. What the Lord says of Israel can be said for the Christian today.

*You who are deaf, listen, you who are blind, look and see! Who is blind but my servant, or deaf like the messenger I send? You see many things without taking note; your ears are open, but without hearing. Though it pleased the LORD in his justice to make his law great and glorious, This is a people despoiled and plundered, all of them trapped in holes, hidden away in prisons. They are taken as booty, with no one to rescue them, as spoil, with no one to demand their return. Who of you gives ear to this? Who listens and pays heed for the time to come? Who was it that gave Jacob to be plundered, Israel to the despoilers? Was it not the LORD, against whom we have sinned? In his ways they refused to walk, his law they disobeyed. So he poured out wrath upon them, his anger, and the fury of battle; It blazed round about them, yet they did not realize, it burned them, but they took it not to heart. (Is 42,18-25).*

*Your conduct, your misdeeds, have done this to you; how bitter is this disaster of yours, how it reaches to your very heart! My breast! my breast! how I suffer! The walls of my heart! My heart beats wildly, I cannot be still; For I have heard the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war. Ruin after ruin is reported; the whole earth is laid waste. In an instant my tents are ravaged; in a flash, my shelters. How long must I see that signal, hear that trumpet sound! Fools my people are, they know me not; Senseless children they are, having no understanding; They are wise in evil, but know not how to do good. (Jer 4,18-22). Announce this to the house of Jacob, proclaim it in Judah: Pay attention to this, foolish and senseless people Who have eyes and see not, who have ears and hear not. Should you not fear me, says the LORD, should you not tremble before me? I made the sandy shore the sea's limit, which by eternal decree it may not overstep. Toss though it may, it is to no avail; though its billows roar, they cannot pass. But this people's heart is stubborn and rebellious; they turn and go away, And say not in their hearts, "Let us fear the LORD, our God, Who gives us rain early and late, in its time; Who watches for us over the appointed weeks of harvest." (Jer 4, 20-24).*

The Church, and each of her child in her, must never think and act against the Word of the Lord. The fact that every genre of fish can enter the net of the kingdom thrown in the sea does not mean that everybody can be put in the buckets of heaven. The wicked fish is excluded and thrown in the Gehenna of the fire for eternity. The Christian can even personally not believe in this truth, however if he is minister of the Word or Teacher in the comprehension of the truth of the Word, is obliged by intellectual honesty to say what Christ Jesus says and the Word contains. Not by faith, but by honesty.

*Again, the kingdom of heaven* *is like a net thrown into the sea, which collects fish of every kind. When it is full they haul it ashore and sit down to put what is good into buckets. What is bad they throw away. Thus it will be at the end of the age. The angels will go out and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth. "Do you understand all these things?" They answered, "Yes." And he replied, "Then every scribe who has been instructed in the kingdom of heaven is like the head of a household who brings from his storeroom both the new and the old." When Jesus finished these parables, he went away from there.*

The one who says and teaches the Word saying the contrary of what it says and contains is a dishonest minister, a teacher of lies. Damnation and hell are essential truth of the Gospel, of the entire Scripture. Announcing it to people so that, whoever wants it may be saved, is obligation of righteousness. Not only is whoever denies it, stating the contrary, unrighteous and dishonest, one is also merciless toward the brothers. One condemns them to hell.

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, Angels, Saints, make us honest and true ministers.

# Is he not the carpenter's son?

# Lv 23,1.4-11.15-16.27.34b-37; Ps 80,3-6.10-11; Mt 13,54-58.

### 4 AUGUST

Jesus is the true son of Israel. This is his first truth. If he is a true son of Israel he must necessarily be a true Son of the Word of the Lord. This is his second truth. When a person comes and speaks, presenting himself in the name of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the first test to be done is to see if He is from the Word in the Word and for the Word of God in whose name he comes. If he says the Word of God and the Word of God lives, doubting him is doubting the Word of God. It is also doubtful of the God in whose name He speaks and works. Everything has to be based on the foundation of the Word already known. Without and out of the Word, every discernment is vain.

This rule also applies to the prophets and *"saints"* of the New Testament. Everyone can come and say to speak in the name of Christ the Lord or his Mother. The comparison of truth must be based on the foundation of the Church's faith and her sound doctrine. Why did Christ come? To build the kingdom of God on earth. Why do prophets and saints come? To build the kingdom of God, the Church of God on earth. Where there is no real edification of the kingdom of God there is no true prophecy and true holiness. True prophecy and true holiness are ordained to the kingdom of God, to the reestablishment of Christ, of the Word and of the Church in the hearts. Jesus gives this rule to his disciples. False Christs and false prophets will be so numerous and so smart as to even deceive the elect of God.

*"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but underneath are ravenous wolves. By their fruits you will know them. Do people pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? Just so, every good tree bears good fruit, and a rotten tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a rotten tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. So by their fruits you will know them (Mt 7,15-20). Jesus said to them in reply, "See that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Messiah,' and they will deceive many. If anyone says to you then, 'Look, here is the Messiah!' or, 'There he is!' do not believe it. False messiahs and false prophets will arise, and they will perform signs and wonders so great as to deceive, if that were possible, even the elect. Behold, I have told it to you beforehand. So if they say to you, 'He is in the desert,' do not go out there; if they say, 'He is in the inner rooms,' do not believe it. For just as lightning comes from the east and is seen as far as the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be. Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather (Mt 24,4-5.23-28).*

Jesus comes. He lives the whole Word of the Father. His life is only a work of love, compassion, mercy, benevolence and truth. He carries out more powerful signs than those made by Moses, Elijah and Elisha. He teaches in the purest wisdom. There are all the requirements of Word and works to attest that He is from God. It does not matter if he is a prophet, the Messiah, a wise and a knowing person. At this moment it is not urgent that his intrinsic truth is established. It is enough to affirm the extrinsic and visible one: He is from God. It is from this truth that we then open to every other. If this first truth is denied, never might one open to the knowledge and understanding of the intrinsic truth.

*He came to his native place and taught the people in their synagogue. They were astonished and said, "Where did this man get such wisdom and mighty deeds? Is he not the carpenter's son? Is not his mother named Mary and his brothers James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas? Are not his sisters all with us? Where did this man get all this?" And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honour except in his native place and in his own house." And he did not work many mighty deeds there because of their lack of faith.*

The people of Nazareth do not look at the richness and greatness of his works, they observe the humility of his origin and for it deny his being from God, thus committing a double sin of stupidity and foolishness: they deny the present evidence. Works attest that Jesus is from God. They negate the evidence of the Word and past history. The great King David was at the time of the call a humble shepherd of flocks, not even invited by his father to stand before Samuel. Folly is the cancer of faith.

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints free us from all stupidity.

# Prompted by her mother

# Lv 25,1.8-17; Ps 66,2-3.5.7-8; Mt 14,1-12.

### 5 AUGUST

The power of death of evil resides in the concordance of those who have voted their lives to evil, to malice, to dishonour and to the transgression of the Law of the Lord. Both the Psalm and the Book of Wisdom reveal to us that only the Lord can remedy the concordant wickedness of gullible and foolish hearts. This power and omnipotence is not man's. God protects his friends until the moment of their time to depart. When time comes, then the Lord takes away his protection and everything is done for the greatest good of his elect. This too is charity and love of God.

*O God, do not remain quiet; Do not be silent and, O God, do not be still.**For behold, Your enemies make an uproar, And those who hate You have exalted themselves.**They make shrewd plans against Your people, And conspire together against Your treasured ones.**They have said, “Come, and let us wipe them out as a nation, That the name of Israel be remembered no more.”**For they have conspired together with one mind; Against You they make a covenant (Ps 83 (82) 1-6). She, when the nations were sunk in universal wickedness, knew the just man, kept him blameless before God, and preserved him resolute against pity for his child. She delivered the just man from among the wicked who were being destroyed, when he fled as fire descended upon Pentapolis - Where as a testimony to its wickedness, there yet remain a smoking desert, Plants bearing fruit that never ripens, and the tomb of a disbelieving soul, a standing pillar of salt. For those who forsook Wisdom first were bereft of knowledge of the right, And then they left mankind a memorial of their folly -  so that they could not even be hidden in their fall (Wis 10,5-8).*

A storm of insatiable hate, unmanageable foolishness, lust and concupiscence that upset mind, heart and body beats down on John the Baptist. In front of such a powerful hurricane there is no chance that the Precursor remains alive. Whoever is at the head of this sinful cyclone is the evil Herodias. It is she who instigates her daughter to ask the king the head of the prophet of the living God. Who does not want to be involved in this hurricane and cyclone of evil must keep his life protecting it from all sin, not only mortal, serious, but also venial. Often it is venial sin that opens doors to the fall into more serious sins. We know that David fell into the sin of adultery for an impudent look and from adultery then fell into a sin of murder. From an impure look, he was transformed into an adulterer and a multiple homicide.

*At that time Herod the tetrarch heard of the reputation of Jesus and said to his servants, "This man is John the Baptist. He has been raised from the dead; that is why mighty powers are at work in him." Now Herod had arrested John, bound (him), and put him in prison on account of Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip, for John had said to him, "It is not lawful for you to have her." Although he wanted to kill him, he feared the people, for they regarded him as a prophet. But at a birthday celebration for Herod, the daughter of Herodias performed a dance before the guests and delighted Herod so much that he swore to give her whatever she might ask for. Prompted by her mother, she said, "Give me here on a platter the head of John the Baptist." The king was distressed, but because of his oaths and the guests who were present, he ordered that it be given, and he had John beheaded in the prison. His head was brought in on a platter and given to the girl, who took it to her mother. His disciples came and took away the corpse and buried him; and they went and told Jesus.*

 Jesus also ended his life on the Cross because the powerful forces of evil in his time - Pharisees, scribes, Sadducees, priests and elders of the people - always disagreeing with everything, all against Christ the Lord became one only force and one destroyer hurricane. But always in the world, the strength of one person is nothing. No man is in power to rule the earth. What would a dictator be if science and the engineering war did not line up at his service? But not even these mere forces would suffice. It is necessary that many other men share the evil and are made its tools. The perfect storm of evil becomes weak and ineffective even when only one ring of the chain breaks. Each can be a ring that gives strength to the whole chain.

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints break in us the chain of evil.

# And he was transfigured before them

# Dn 7,9-10.13-14; or: 2 Pt 1,16-19; Ps 96,1-2.5-6.9; Mt 17,1-9.

### 6 AUGUST – TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

When Moses came down from the Mount with the two tables of the Law again written with the finger of God, after the sin of the idolatry of his people, the Lord accredited him by participating in him a little of his light. The skin of his face had become radiant. This participation of light, glory and "almost of divinity", creates fear in hearts. The children of Israel, including Aaron, are afraid to approach him. They see him as an almost divine being. They know that he is a true man of God and brings the Word of his God.

*As Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the commandments in his hands, he did not know that the skin of his face had become radiant while he conversed with the Lord. When Aaron, then, and the other Israelites saw Moses and noticed how radiant the skin of his face had become, they were afraid to come near him. Only after Moses called to them did Aaron and all the rulers of the community come back to him. Moses then spoke to them. Later on, all the Israelites came up to him, and he enjoined on them all that the Lord had told him on Mount Sinai. When he finished speaking with them, he put a veil over his face. Whenever Moses entered the presence of the Lord to converse with him, he removed the veil until he came out again. On coming out, he would tell the Israelites all that had been commanded. Then the Israelites would see that the skin of Moses' face was radiant; so he would again put the veil over his face until he went in to converse with the Lord (Ex 34,28-35).*

Many times and in various ways Jesus had attested of being from God. The Apostles saw miracles, but were very reluctant to listen to his Word. If you do not believe in the Word, seeing miracles is of no avail. Moses and the Law must be believed in the same way. The Law is written Word of God. Moses is the living Word of God. Jesus is also the living Word of God. To put this faith in their hearts, He ascends to the Mount and is transfigured in all his body, taking for a moment all the light of his divinity and hiding His body with it. It is as if the body were all turned into light. Not because God had made him share in any of his eternal light, but because He himself is eternal light in the flesh. To this the presence of two witnesses is added: Moses and Elijah, who are the testimony of the Law and the Prophets and are there to attest that his Word is the true Word of God, in full compliance with the Law and the Prophecy. If this is still not enough, the Father also makes his voice be heard from the cloud and asks the disciples to listen to Christ. His Word is his Word, his voice is his voice. He is His Beloved Son, His Messiah, his Chosen, his true Christ. He is most pure Word of truth. His is a messianism through the way of the Cross.

*After six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with him. Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud cast a shadow over them, then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." When the disciples heard this, they fell prostrate and were very much afraid. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and do not be afraid." And when the disciples raised their eyes, they saw no one else but Jesus alone. As they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, "Do not tell the vision to anyone until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."*

The disciple of Jesus is obliged to make the Word credible. He must also be the living Word of God, the living Word of Christ in the Holy Spirit. If the Word is not credited for lack of accreditation, the responsibility lies entirely with the disciple. God has always made his envoys credible. If he is not credible, there is something in him that does not go. The relationship he lives with his God is certainly not true, because the Word is spoken but not lived by him. It is taught, but not practiced, realized and embodied. The first accreditation must always be the Word of God made flesh in his life.

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints make the Word live in us.

# O you of little faith, why did you doubt?

# Nm 11,4b-15; Ps 80,12-17; Mt 14,22-36.

### 7 AUGUST

Other prophets have made some miracles made by Jesus Christ before Him, though the modes are totally different. A word is enough to Jesus and everything is carried out and happens. His command is similar to the command of God on the day of creation. But there are other signs and miracles that no one has ever made. Seeing these signs, the Apostles remain disoriented. They lack the reference scriptwriting example. No one before Jesus ever walked on waters. Moses divided the Sea. Joshua divided the Jordan. Elisha also divided the Jordan. But they did not walk on the water. Instead, Jesus reaches his disciples by walking on the waters, rather almost flying. The disciples see and think they are in front of a ghost. Yet, they do not know that nothing is impossible to Jesus.

Peter is still not of immediate faith. He asks for a sign to be able to open to this new truth of Jesus. *"Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the waters."* Translated it means: *"Command me to do what no righteous and prophet has ever done. After you, Jesus, I would be the second man who walked on waters."* Jesus agrees and invites him to go to Him. With what fruits? As soon as he rests his feet on the water and begins to walk, he is taken by fear because of the strong wind and was about to sink. Immediately his prayer: *"Lord, save me!"* What is wrong with Peter’s behaviour on that night? There is nothing right in him. It is the procedure that is wrong in him. It is not the sign that creates the faith, but the faith that creates the sign. Peter wishes he could base his faith on Christ the Lord on the sign of walking on the waters. But on the waters you walk only by faith. Since he does not have faith, he immediately sinks. But he believes that Jesus can save him. He invokes salvation and is immediately brought back onto the boat. Peter is not convinced that man is Jesus despite his reassurance. His words attest to it, *"Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the waters."* You say you are Jesus. But you are really Jesus? Let's try it. If I come because you command it, you are truly Jesus. With this faith you do not go anywhere. One drowns in history. On the sea of ​​history you walk with an invincible faith in Jesus, a faith also ready to walk on the sea of ​​the cross and to drown upon it. This is faith.

*Then he made the disciples get into the boat and precede him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. After doing so, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When it was evening he was there alone. Meanwhile the boat, already a few miles offshore, was being tossed about by the waves, for the wind was against it. During the fourth watch of the night, he came toward them, walking on the sea. When the disciples saw him walking on the sea they were terrified. "It is a ghost," they said, and they cried out in fear. At once (Jesus) spoke to them, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid." Peter said to him in reply, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw how (strong) the wind was he became frightened; and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" After they got into the boat, the wind died down. Those who were in the boat did him homage, saying, "Truly, you are the Son of God." After making the crossing, they came to land at Gennesaret. When the men of that place recognized him, they sent word to all the surrounding country. People brought to him all those who were sick and begged him that they might touch only the tassel on his cloak, and as many as touched it were healed.*

In this night, nothing has happened in vain. The faith of the disciples becomes stronger. They believe that Jesus is truly the Son of God, that is, His Messiah. Jesus is not like Moses. He is greater than him. He is not like the prophets. He is greater than them. Now greater than the Prophets and Moses there is one Person: The Christ of God, His Messiah. From the signs to faith in the Person. From the faith in the Person, to the faith in the Word. From faith in the Word to conversion and faith in the Word. It all begins with the Word and everything must be concluded in the Word. Faith in the Word becomes a sign of truth for the world.

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints make us signs of truth for all.

# Let them alone; they are blind guides (of the blind)

# Nm 12,1-13; Ps 50,3-6.12-13; Mt 15,1-2.10-14.

### 8 AUGUST

Pharisees and scribes are blind and blind guides because they are incapable of seeing God's heart in the Law. Not seeing the heart of God, they are not even capable of seeing the thought of God and everything is replaced with their thoughts. When God is not seen in the Law, in the Word, when God's thought is not seen in the Law and in the Word, it is the sign that the heart is impure, the eyes are impure and the mouth is unclean. But if the mouth is unclean, even the word spoken by them is unclean. If it is unclean, it is certainly not the Word of God.

*The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands. Day to day pours forth speech, And night to night reveals knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; Their voice is not heard. Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their utterances to the end of the world. In them He has placed a tent for the sun, Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber; It rejoices as a strong man to run his course.**Its rising is from one end of the heavens, And its circuit to the other end of them; And there is nothing hidden from its heat.*

*The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.**The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the Lord are true; they are righteous altogether. They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb.**Moreover, by them Your servant is warned; In keeping them there is great reward.**Who can discern his errors? Acquit me of hidden faults.**Also keep back Your servant from presumptuous sins; Let them not rule over me; Then I will be blameless, And I shall be acquitted of great transgression.**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my rock and my Redeemer (Ps 19 (18,1-15).*

No one might ever be a master for others unless he is a master for himself. Who does not live according to the heart of God and his thoughts, the Law of God, might never be able to teach a single man how the Law of the Lord must be understood to be observed. It all starts with the purity of the heart. The heart is pure only if it lives in the Law of the Lord and dwells in it if it dwells in God. The only pure heart is that of God. One enters into his Law, from the Law he enters into the heart of God, the heart of God makes our heart pure, with the pure heart we always see God in the Law according to his pure and holy thought. If we are not in the Law, because we transgress it, we will also never be in the heart of God and if we are not in the heart of God, we will always see the Law with our unclean eyes and we will say it with our impure word. The impure is always blind.

*Then Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, "Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? They do not wash (their) hands when they eat a meal." He summoned the crowd and said to them, "Hear and understand. It is not what enters one's mouth that defiles that person; but what comes out of the mouth is what defiles one." Then his disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" He said in reply, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides (of the blind). If a blind person leads a blind person, both will fall into a pit."*

When even in the Church blind and blind guides arise, it is necessary that those who have eyes warn every man so that he does not let himself be led in order to end up into a ditch, into the ditch of hell because of the impurity in which life is led. Jesus warns his people with divine intelligence in the Holy Spirit, but also with the charity that always moves him. His word is never of condemnation, because it is a word of salvation, redemption and passing from darkness to light. Jesus often adds strong words to it. Fortitude is needed to shake the slothful hearts stuck in error and evil, which always results in idolatry and immorality. The invitation to operate the transition from darkness to light must always be operated in the Holy Spirit. It is He who has to suggest, person by person, the right words to say. Without the Spirit of God we do not know the perfect words and we can even ruin a soul.

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints fill us with Holy Spirit.

# No, for there may not be enough for us and you

# Hos 2,16b.17b.21-22; Ps 44,11-12.14-17; Mt 25,1-13.

### 9 AUGUST

According to the parable the Lord says today, wisdom is the fruit of three truths that must be the essence and substance not only of our thinking, but also of our whole life. Even flesh and blood have to make their own these three truths, otherwise the risk of forgetting them is always within reach. These truths are more than the air we breathe and more than the skin of our body. They must be the habit of our soul, the daily nourishment of our spirit. The wise is these three truths.

First truth: lamp and oil must be, they are one thing. Tree and fruit are one thing. Body and soul are one thing. Gospel and works are one thing. Faith and Word are one thing. Word heard and Word implemented and realized are one thing. There might never be a lamp without oil, a tree without fruit, a soul without a body, the Gospel without works, faith without the Word, the Word heard without the Word carried out. Thinking that one thing can exist without the other is utmost and infinite foolishness. The virgins who know this are wise. Those who do not know this are foolish. The former carry lamp and oil, the latter carry the lamp, but do not carry the oil. Today Christian foolishness is infinite because everything is divided and they want everything to be divided. They even came to the point of separating faith in God, without Christ, without his Gospel, excluding Christ and nullifying the Gospel.

Second truth: no one might bear the fruits of his faith, which are the fruits of the lived Word, for the eternal salvation of another. In this delicate sector it is necessary to make a subtle distinction. It is necessary to separate conversion, regeneration and eternal salvation. The fruits of the faith - to make it understood: the fruits of the cross of Christ and the fruits of the evangelical life of confessors and martyrs and of every other male and female saint - are always given through the conversion, regeneration to new life, to help the brothers leave the world of idolatry and immorality and enter into that of the light and holiness of Christ. With conversion, regeneration and participation of divine nature one becomes heir of eternal life. It is a gift that God promises, but that he gives to those who have transformed the Word heard into the Word of Life. The Father gives His Paradise to those who have lived of the Gospel and for the Gospel. If Paradise were the gift of the fruits of the faith of others, Christ's merits are so high as to allow the entry into eternal life to the whole world. Instead, his fruits are for conversion and to enter life.

*"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.*

Third Truth: if at the time of death we will not be found in the lived Word, that is, in the grace of God, in the light of Christ, in his charity, there will be no place for us in heaven. The doors of Heaven are closed and will forever remain closed for us. Today this truth has been erased and with it the first two truths are also bound to die. We are saved for the Cross of Christ. The Cross of Jesus gives us redemption, not eternal salvation. This is also the result of our holy works. It is the journey in the Word that leads us to Heaven. If you do not walk on the Way of the Word, you end up in hell.

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints make us wise in the Gospel.

# The Father will honour whoever serves me

# 2Cor 9,6-10; Ps 111,1-2.5-6.9; Jn 12,24-26.

### 10 AUGUST

Christ Jesus wants his "model of faith and mission" is also for all those who choose to go after Him. Then it is right, rather necessary that we know of Jesus both his model of faith and mission, otherwise we risk to run in vain and not to produce any fruit of salvation. Jesus lives to manifest the Father. How does He manifest the Father? By listening to each of his words and giving immediate obedience to it. By transforming into history every Word of the Father, He reveals to the world who the Father is and how great is his love for man. What must the life of who wants to follow Jesus be? It must be a life entirely delivered to Christ so that Christ is manifested through it. How will Christ be manifested? Turning every word into history. It is the Word of Jesus embodied by him in history that reveals how great the love of Christ is in which all of the Father's love lives.

What is then the mission model of Jesus? He came to build on earth the kingdom of the Father. How did He build the kingdom of the Father in the hearts of men? Putting the Father in the heart of those who have heard his Word. Never is one God's kingdom, if man is not brought into the heart of God and the heart of God in the heart of man. What must be the mission or the mission model of the disciple of Jesus? That of establishing the kingdom of Christ in the hearts of men. How is the kingdom of Christ established in the hearts? By placing the heart of man in the heart of Christ and the heart of Christ in the heart of man. It is through the heart of Christ and in the heart of Christ that the heart of the Father governs the hearts of his children. If the heart of Christ is not placed in the hearts of men, the mission is highly bankrupt. It is a vain mission. It is without fruit, because the fruit of the mission of the Christian is the heart of Christ given to the hearts of men. This takes place through the fulfilment of every Word of Jesus in the life of his disciple. You live the Word, through the lived Word you see Christ, you get converted to Christ, you receive the heart of Christ, you are edified as the kingdom of Christ on earth. If the Word is not lived, the whole Christian mission disappears.

*Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honour whoever serves me.*

Here is how the seed of grain that is the Christian falls to the ground and dies: placing himself in the exclusive service of Christ for the building up of the kingdom of Christ in the midst of men. As Christ lived to make the Father be known, so the disciple must live to make Christ be known. As Christ made the Father be known by obeying him until death by Cross, so the disciple must make him be known by obeying him until death by cross. Life is delivered to obedience, it is lost in obedience. A lifetime entirely lost for Christ on earth is a life entirely found in his realm of light and eternal glory. Our faith is not an obedience to a Law, a Commandment and a virtue an end in themselves. Law, Commandments and Virtues are necessary because for faithfulness to the Word Christ is known in his truth and grace, He is believed and He is accepted as truth, way and life of the heart. Having accepted Him, the Father in the Holy Spirit is received in him. Visibly one becomes God's kingdom for the aggregation to the visible kingdom of Christ which is his Church. The certainty of the disciple of Jesus, who is the true kingdom of God, is possessed the moment he works to build the Church. If the edification of the Church is omitted, it is a sign that he is not the true kingdom of God and the true body of Christ. He does not live in the heart of Christ, he is not in the heart of the Father, he does not build the kingdom of the Father, because he does not work so that the Father through Christ, lives in every heart. This is the reason why Christianity must never be transformed into mere humanism. Christianity is the gift of the Father's heart in the heart of Christ.

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints make us true servants of Jesus.

**AUGUST 2017**

## SECOND DECADE OF AUGUST

# Whoever wishes to come after me

# Dt 4,32-40; Ps 76,12-16.21; Mt 16,24-28.

### 11 AUGUST

Jesus always works a twofold distinction between the "free" will of the man to accept or reject his proposal of eternal life, remaining, in the non acceptance, on the way to death and perdition and the obligation, if one accepts the Word, of living according to the Word. Who enters the Gospel is required to live according to the Gospel. He cannot be in the Gospel and act as if he were out, or making changes, variations and sundry arrangements in it. Thus Saint Paul reveals this truth to both the Corinthians and Galatians. The Gospel is one. You must remain faithful to it.

*Now I am reminding you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you indeed received and in which you also stand. Through it you are also being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. For I handed on to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures; that he was buried; that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures; that he appeared to Kephas, then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at once, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. After that he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one born abnormally, he appeared to me. For I am the least of the apostles, not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me has not been ineffective. Indeed, I have toiled harder than all of them; not I, however, but the grace of God (that is) with me. Therefore, whether it be I or they, so we preach and so you believed (1Cor 15.1-11).*

*I am amazed that you are so quickly forsaking the one who called you by (the) grace (of Christ) for a different gospel (not that there is another). But there are some who are disturbing you and wish to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach (to you) a gospel other than the one that we preached to you, let that one be accursed! As we have said before, and now I say again, if anyone preaches to you a gospel other than the one that you received, let that one be accursed! Am I now currying favour with human beings or God? Or am I seeking to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a slave of Christ. Now I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel preached by me is not of human origin. For I did not receive it from a human being, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ (Gal 1,6-112).*

All the evils of the Christian faith, all the heresies, the schisms, the separations arise from the non distinction between *"free will"* of accepting and the obligation of loyalty to the accepted Word. Having accepted the Gospel, taken the decision to follow Christ, it is as if one had gone to the market and had been sold in slavery. His life is no longer his either in thoughts, or in will or in heart, or in soul and spirit. It is all of the one to whom it has been sold. What is the profit of this sale? Eternal bliss. It is the joy of enjoying God's life in God and in his Paradise forever.

*Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Or what can one give in exchange for his life? For the Son of Man will come with his angels in his Father's glory, and then he will repay everyone according to his conduct. Amen, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."*

Receiving the Gospel is making a gift of yourself to Christ, in all that you are and possess. Nothing is ours anymore. Everything is of Christ. Life must be lived to bear witness to Christ, to confess his name, to attest that we no longer belong to the world because we have been sold to Him forever. If we keep faith in this sale, Christ will sell himself entirely to us, will give himself to us in his soul, in his body, in his divinity and in all his eternity. We live in Him, for Him.

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints make us of Christ today and always.

# Because of your little faith

# Dt 6,4-13; Ps 17,2-4.47.51; Mt 17,14-20.

### 12 AUGUST

The Letter to the Hebrews, reads the history of the men of God and states that in their lives everything was by faith. Nothing happened in them without faith. Then, we can say that faith is the true germ of life. For the faith of our very small seed, a very big tree is born that can become a salvation for the whole world.

*By faith Rahab the harlot did not perish with the disobedient, for she had received the spies in peace. What more shall I say? I have not time to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, who by faith conquered kingdoms, did what was righteous, obtained the promises; they closed the mouths of lions, put out raging fires, escaped the devouring sword; out of weakness they were made powerful, became strong in battle, and turned back foreign invaders. Women received back their dead through resurrection. Some were tortured and would not accept deliverance, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others endured mockery, scourging, even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, sawed in two, put to death at sword's point; they went about in skins of sheep or goats, needy, afflicted, tormented. The world was not worthy of them. They wandered about in deserts and on mountains, in caves and in crevices in the earth. Yet all these, though approved because of their faith, did not receive what had been promised. God had foreseen something better for us, so that without us they should not be made perfect (Heb 11,31-40).*

Then, it is right to ask: what is faith? Faith is the delivery of our lives to a punctual Word that the Lord has said to us personally, as punctual was the Word that God said to Noah, Abraham, Moses, Joshua, Judges, Prophets and every other man to whom the Lord spoke. One listens to the Word, lives for it, to give life to it, knowing that our present and our future is in the Word, even though today this Word passes through the way of the cross and death. Why does Jesus say to the Apostles that the unclean spirit has not been removed from them for their little faith? In what did they not believe or have believed little? Jesus has given them the power to drive out demons. This power always acts in the name of Jesus. The apostles still have little faith in Jesus. They still do not believe in the fullness of his truth. They still do not trust his Word. What are the fruits: the ineffectiveness of their work. They will never cast any devil in their own name. They might always do so in the name of their God and Lord. But still the name of Christ is not their truth and consequently not even their faith. The Apostles are still crude of Christ Jesus.

*When they came to the crowd a man approached, knelt down before him, and said, "Lord, have pity on my son, for he is a lunatic and suffers severely; often he falls into fire, and often into water. I brought him to your disciples, but they could not cure him." Jesus said in reply, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long will I be with you? How long will I endure you? Bring him here to me." Jesus rebuked him and the demon came out of him, and from that hour the boy was cured. Then the disciples approached Jesus in private and said, "Why could we not drive it out?" He said to them, "Because of your little faith. Amen, I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."*

The disciple becomes a true man of faith and can always act in the name of Christ Jesus to the extent that he becomes the truth of his truth, the Word of his Word, the life of his life, the soul of his soul and the spirit of his spirit. Everything has to be drawn from Christ and everything must be worked on in him, for Him and with Him. Christ and the Apostles are still two divided bodies, two separate truths, two distant hearts and two unapproachable souls. Certainly not because of Christ, but for the total responsibility of the disciples who do nothing to embrace the thought of Christ and become with Jesus one only thought. Is not today, in the Church, the non-communion in the same thought of Christ that makes us strangers to one another, in contrast, in disunion and often in opposition and war?

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints make us one thing with Christ.

# After doing so, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray

# 1 Kings 19,9a.11-13a; Ps 84,9-14; Rm 9,1-5; Mt 14,22-33.

### 13 AUGUST – XIX SUNDAY O.T.

Prayer in Christ Jesus is a true transplant of heart, will, thoughts and desires. He stands aside, alone. He keeps in communion with the Father in the Holy Spirit and asks God to give him the gift of his heart, will, thoughts and desires, because he wants to love with his heart, to want with his will, to think with his thoughts and to wish with his desires. Jesus does not want to be from himself even in a prime motion of his mind and heart. For this never to happen, the transplant of the whole Father into Him is necessary. That Jesus does not ask any other grace to the Father but this he Himself reveals it to us in his prayer elevated to God high in the garden of Olives.

*Then going out he went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. When he arrived at the place he said to them, "Pray that you may not undergo the test." After withdrawing about a stone's throw from them and kneeling, he prayed, saying, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me; still, not my will but yours be done." (And to strengthen him an angel from heaven appeared to him. He was in such agony and he prayed so fervently that his sweat became like drops of blood falling on the ground.) When he rose from prayer and returned to his disciples, he found them sleeping from grief. He said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not undergo the test" (Lk 22,39-46).*

This transplant of God that has begun the day after baptism in the Jordan River, Jesus asks it day after day and night after night. It's a transplant that does not happen once and for all. It is as if Jesus were always under surgery. One moment without the heart of the Father and temptation immediately begins to make way so that Christ acts from himself and not from God. After baptism, Jesus perfected this transplant in the desert, a real operating room for Him. That transplant was perfect is attested by the immediacy with which he overcomes Satan's temptation. Between temptation and victory there is only room for the answer. This night the Father's heart asks Jesus to do a never-before-commanded work. He asks him to reveal himself to his disciples as no other has ever been revealed. He is above every man who preceded him and above every man that will come after him. Everyone will have to know his uniqueness before God. Jesus obeys and walks on the waters. What is the result of his obedience? True faith is born in the disciples. He is confessed to be the true Son of God and true Messiah. From the obedience of Christ to the Father comes true faith in his person in the disciples.

*Then he made the disciples get into the boat and precede him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. After doing so, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When it was evening he was there alone. Meanwhile the boat, already a few miles offshore, was being tossed about by the waves, for the wind was against it. During the fourth watch of the night, he came toward them, walking on the sea. When the disciples saw him walking on the sea they were terrified. "It is a ghost," they said, and they cried out in fear. At once (Jesus) spoke to them, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid." Peter said to him in reply, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw how (strong) the wind was he became frightened; and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" After they got into the boat, the wind died down. Those who were in the boat did him homage, saying, "Truly, you are the Son of God."*

This law of Christ obliges every disciple. Day by day every disciple must ask Christ for the gift of his heart. Having received the heart, from it he will receive the desire to be realized, the Word to be lived and the will to be carried out. From the punctual obedience to the desire, the will and the Word, the world will see and begin to know who a true disciple of Jesus is. It will always be from the true knowledge of the disciple that one comes to the true knowledge of Christ and the true knowledge of Christ and to knowledge of the Father. Today the world is without the knowledge of the Father, because it lacks the true knowledge of Christ, for the Christian is without his truth.

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints make us true in Christ Jesus.

# And they were overwhelmed with grief

# Dt 10,12-22; Ps 147,12-15.19-20; Mt 17,22-27.

### 14 AUGUST

Every word spoken by Jesus and every event concerning his Person has a single purpose: manifesting, revealing and telling who He is before God and men according to the perfect divine and human, eternal and historical truth that envelops him. It is from the truth of Christ that one comes to the truth of the Father, as it will always be from the truth of the disciples of Christ that one comes to the truth of the Incarnate Son of God so that from him comes to the truth of the Father. If Christ does not reveal his truth, the whole world will be submerged in darkness. Never will there be one single light on God and man. Today, this ministry and mission is entirely of the Christian. He will reveal all his truth to the world and through him the world will know the truth of Christ and it will know the truth of the Father through Christ and in Christ.

Today, the Christian has decided not to say his truth to the world anymore. He has established that his truth is not needed by the world. The world today needs a piece of bread. What use has it of the Christian truth? So deciding and acting, the results are all under our eyes. The world no longer knows Christ. Not knowing Christ, it has built itself a whole new God. It is a God without word, without Law, without Commandment, without any obedience. This new God of the world in truth is not the work of the world. It is the very Christian the one who built him for himself and then offered him to the world as its true God. The Christian is behaving in everything like the people of God in the desert. He built his God, but not made of molten metal, but fusing it with foolish thoughts.

*When the people became aware of Moses' delay in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said to him, "Come, make us a god who will be our leader; as for the man Moses who brought us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has happened to him." Aaron replied, "Have your wives and sons and daughters take off the golden earrings they are wearing, and bring them to me." So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron, who accepted their offering, and fashioning this gold with a graving tool, made a molten calf. Then they cried out, "This is your God, O Israel, who brought you out of the land of Egypt." On seeing this, Aaron built an altar before the calf and proclaimed, "Tomorrow is a feast of the Lord." Early the next day the people offered holocausts and brought peace offerings. Then they sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel (Ex 32,1-6).*

Jesus came to destroy every false god, but also every false messiah that man is always building. The true Messiah is not the one who promises to free his followers from the cross. On the contrary, it is the one who takes his cross and invites his disciple to do likewise. The true Messiah is the one who ascends on the cross and remains nailed forever on it. This is the truth of the Messiah of God, this is the truth of every disciple.

*As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is to be handed over to men, and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day." And they were overwhelmed with grief. When they came to Capernaum, the collectors of the temple tax approached Peter and said, "Doesn't your teacher pay the temple tax?" "Yes," he said. When he came into the house, before he had time to speak, Jesus asked him, "What is your opinion, Simon? From whom do the kings of the earth take tolls or census tax? From their subjects or from foreigners?" When he said, "From foreigners," Jesus said to him, "Then the subjects are exempt. But that we may not offend them, go to the sea, drop in a hook, and take the first fish that comes up. Open its mouth and you will find a coin worth twice the temple tax. Give that to them for me and for you."*

Jesus reveals to his disciples his truth, he speaks to them about his cross and they are saddened because there is a strong contrast, rather an abysmal contrast and divergence between what the Master says and what they have imagined of Him. The falseness of thoughts always generates sadness, because the truth forces us to abandon them. All the sadness of the world is the result of the falsehood of mind and heart. On the contrary, when one becomes God's truth in Christ, in the communion of the Holy Spirit, joy is born in the heart. It is the joy of truth and love, of true hope in the knowledge of Christ Jesus.

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints give us the joy of truth.

# When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting

# Rev 11,19a; 12,1-6a.10Hab; Ps 44,10-12.15b-16; 1Cor 15,20-27a; Lk 1,39-56.

### 15 AUGUST

To measure the immeasurable size of the Mother of Jesus, it is sufficient to observe what happened in the house of Zachariah, as soon as the greeting reached Elizabeth's ear. Mary's voice is a true transplant of the Holy Spirit. In Elizabeth a new spirit and a new heart are born. Even the baby in her womb becomes a new creature. The breath of the Lord's Mother is all like the breath of God, the heart of Christ still nailed to the Cross and his breath "breathed" on the disciples in the Cenacle.

*At the time when the Lord God made the earth and the heavens - while as yet there was no field shrub on earth and no grass of the field had sprouted, for the Lord God had sent no rain upon the earth and there was no man to till the soil, but a stream was welling up out of the earth and was watering all the surface of the ground - the Lord God formed man out of the clay of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life, and so man became a living being (Gen 2,4-7).*

*Now since it was preparation day, in order that the bodies might not remain on the cross on the Sabbath, for the Sabbath day of that week was a solemn one, the Jews asked Pilate that their legs be broken and they be taken down. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and then of the other one who was crucified with Jesus. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs, but one soldier thrust his lance into his side, and immediately blood and water flowed out. An eyewitness has testified, and his testimony is true; he knows that he is speaking the truth, so that you also may (come to) believe. For this happened so that the scripture passage might be fulfilled: "Not a bone of it will be broken." And again another passage says: "They will look upon him whom they have pierced" (Jn 19,31-37). On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. (Jesus) said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained" (Jn 20,19-23).*

The Virgin Mary is the true image of the Church, of whom she is the true Mother. Like Mary, every son of the Church, must be filled with so much power of the Holy Spirit as to make his breath, his voice, become the powerful pouring off of the Holy Ghost. This from the heart of the disciple must be poured entirely into the heart of whoever listens to him, for his conversion to the Gospel of Christ Jesus and for the reception of the truth that is in the Word.

*During those days Mary set out and travelled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." And Mary said: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my saviour. For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness; behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed. The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is from age to age to those who fear him. He has shown might with his arm, dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart. He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones but lifted up the lowly. The hungry he has filled with good things; the rich he has sent away empty. He has helped Israel his servant, remembering his mercy, according to his promise to our fathers, to Abraham and to his descendants forever." Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.*

The one of Mary is also a voice and a pouring off of the Holy Spirit that fills the world both with the truth of her person and her mystery and mission and the fullness of the truth of God and the work of salvation desired by Him due to his great mercy. Everything in Mary is the work of the Holy Spirit that in Her has been poured out by God without any measure. The facts that happened attest to it, reveal it and certify the truth.

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints fill us with the Holy Ghost.

# If your brother sins (against you)

# Dt 34,1-12; Ps 65,1-3.5.8.16-17; Mt 18,15-20.

### 16 AUGUST

Guilt is a punctual transgression of one of the Lord's Commandments. It may be of serious or mild, heavy or light matter. If it is done with knowledge, full warning, serious matter, guilt is also a mortal sin. The soul dies to the grace of God and the Spirit of the Lord cannot sanctify it or lead it to the path of righteousness and truth. If serious matter is lacking, guilt is venial, the grace remains, but in the weakness and fragility of the heart and mind. The Spirit works but with difficulty.

Jesus commands that the brother who commits a blame on someone, he must be warned by the one who was offended so that he does not repeat it again. In order to obey this Word of Jesus in holiness, it is necessary that the Christian knows the Law of the Lord well. Without the knowledge of man's obligations before God and brothers, correction or warning could be arbitrary, committing a grave injustice toward his brother. He would be asked to return to the Law of his God, while he is already there. It is what happened to Jesus during the process of the Sanhedrin.

*The high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his doctrine. Jesus answered him, "I have spoken publicly to the world. I have always taught in a synagogue or in the temple area where all the Jews gather, and in secret I have said nothing. Why ask me? Ask those who heard me what I said to them. They know what I said." When he had said this, one of the temple guards standing there struck Jesus and said, "Is this the way you answer the high priest?" Jesus answered him, "If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong; but if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?" Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest (Jn 18,19-24).*

Every man of God, to be of help to the brothers that sin against him, must be a person of perfect discernment. He must separate what is the will of God and the will of men, God's thoughts from human thoughts, the truth of God and the "truth" of men, the Law of God and the law of men. Discernment is not judgment. It is not a matter here, of accusing anyone of sin. Sin is judged by the conscience and the Lord. Instead, it is a matter of warning, a correction of a fault, that is, of the transgression of one of the Laws of the Lord. Today, there is almost a universal chaos in this field. Identifying judgment with discernment, since it is forbidden to judge, it is also forbidden to discern. So that if one kills a person, not being able to judge his conscience, it cannot be even said that it is a murder, a transgression of the Law of God. This confusion encompasses all the commandments, especially the Sixth. To not judge who commits the violation of the Sixth Commandment with both homosexual and heterosexual relationships, must never mean not discerning and not saying that the violation is a blame before God and men. It is an immoral action. Admonition must be made.

*"If your brother sins (against you), go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won over your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, so that 'every fact may be established on the testimony of two or three witnesses.' If he refuses to listen to them, tell the church. If he refuses to listen even to the church, then treat him as you would a Gentile or a tax collector. Amen, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again, (amen,) I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."*

If after the threefold admonition, according to the command of Jesus, it does not produce any fruit, there is the order to consider the person as a pagan or a publican. Why does the Lord give this seemingly tough, severe and rigid rule? Because it is the only way for who has committed the blame to be able to be redeemed, converted and return to live in the Law of God. Instead, acting as if guilt were not guilt - there is no mention of sin here - the other feels justified and could persevere in his evil.

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints make us obedient in Christ Jesus.

# Be patient with me, and I will pay you back

# Gs 3,7-10.11.13-17; Ps 113a,1-6; Mt 18,21-19,1.

### 17 AUGUST

There exists a language according to the Gospel and there exists another that is not according to the Gospel. Any discourse that contradicts one word of the Gospel might never be called evangelical not even theological. It is simply and purely human language, according to the flesh. When is the language on forgiveness evangelical and when it is according to the flesh or the thoughts of the earth? Language on forgiveness is evangelical when we clearly say that God's forgiveness is conditioned by our forgiveness and also that his mercy, even though it always precedes us, works fruit in us in our mercy. The Beatitudes, the perfect evangelical discourse of Christ Jesus, first lay the tree and then the fruit. The tree is man, the fruit is the whole of man and God's grace, in the gift of the Spirit. Grace makes the tree that must produce the fruits.

Whose will the kingdom of heaven be? Of whoever is poor in spirit. Who will see God? Who is pure at heart. Who will receive and obtain mercy? Who is merciful. Who will own the earth? Who is meek. Who will be called the son of God? Who is a peace operator. Who will receive a great blessing and reward in the eternal heavens? Who knows how to suffer for Christ Jesus every insult, every slander and every persecution. It is the tree that produces the fruits. To whom are all debts forgiven by the Lord? To those who forgive them to their debtors. Preaching God’s forgiveness, mercy and compassion that will be given for eternity, or even God's non-judgment on man's works, without adding the necessary work of the man in forgiveness, mercy, poverty in spirit, compassion and all other virtues, of course ours is not an evangelical language. An essential truth about man is lacking. Unfortunately today almost all the talk about God - of Christ Jesus, of the Holy Spirit, of the Mother of God, of the Gospel no one speaks any longer - are all non-evangelical. An essential truth is lacking in them: man.

*Then Peter approaching asked him, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times. That is why the kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who decided to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the accounting, a debtor was brought before him who owed him a huge amount. Since he had no way of paying it back, his master ordered him to be sold, along with his wife, his children, and all his property, in payment of the debt. At that, the servant fell down, did him homage, and said, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back in full.' Moved with compassion the master of that servant let him go and forgave him the loan. When that servant had left, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a much smaller amount. He seized him and started to choke him, demanding, 'Pay back what you owe.' Falling to his knees, his fellow servant begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.' But he refused. Instead, he had him put in prison until he paid back the debt.*

*Now when his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were deeply disturbed, and went to their master and reported the whole affair. His master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to. Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?' Then in anger his master handed him over to the torturers until he should pay back the whole debt. So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives his brother from his heart." When Jesus finished these words, he left Galilee and went to the district of Judea across the Jordan.*

This man had obtained the remission and total condemnation of an infinite, not payable debt. Not even an eternity would have sufficed to be able to clear it. Great, infinite and measureless mercy of God. But this man had forgotten that the mercy of the Master was conditioned to his mercy. Forgetting, he becomes pitiless with a servant like him, who owed him only had a hundred miserable pounds, a debt that could have been readily cleared. The result? He did not remit and not even the Master is not disposed to remittance any more. For this man there is the eternal, endless prison.

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints make us rich in Mercy.

# What God has joined together, no human being must separate

# Gs 24,1-13; Ps 135,1-3.16-17.21-24; Mt 19,3-12.

### 18 AUGUST

Marriage between man and woman is not a historical superstructure of mankind. It belongs to the very law of creation. Because the second story - which is historically before the first - on the origin of creation of the woman from the man, did not appear to be an event motivated by the needs of man, even if they were innate in his own nature, the Holy Spirit immediately provided to place everything in its true order according to God. In the first story - which is after the second - union is already in creation. God decides to create man. The created man is one. He is created in unity. However, this created man is male and female. Unity of nature and unity of will.

*The Lord God said: "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a suitable partner for him." So the Lord God formed out of the ground various wild animals and various birds of the air, and he brought them to the man to see what he would call them; whatever the man called each of them would be its name. The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of the air, and all the wild animals; but none proved to be the suitable partner for the man. So the Lord God cast a deep sleep on the man, and while he was asleep, he took out one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. The Lord God then built up into a woman the rib that he had taken from the man. When he brought her to the man, the man said: "This one, at last, is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; This one shall be called 'woman,' for out of 'her man' this one has been taken." That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one body (Gen 2,18-24).*

*Then God said: "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and the cattle, and over all the wild animals and all the creatures that crawl on the ground." God created man in his image; in the divine image he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them, saying: "Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that move on the earth" (Gen 1,26-28).*

As man is made of soul and flesh, so man is made of male and female. This is truth of essence and nature, because it is the truth of creation. As God is eternal, so man is male and female to give life to other lives for the blessing of his Creator. In the animals Adam did not find a suitable help to him. Today, if man finds the suitable aid in the animal, it is a sign that his nature is corrupt.

*Some Pharisees approached him, and tested him, saying, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any cause whatever?" He said in reply, "Have you not read that from the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female' and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, no human being must separate." They said to him, "Then why did Moses command that the man give the woman a bill of divorce and dismiss (her)?" He said to them, "Because of the hardness of your hearts Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. I say to you, whoever divorces his wife (unless the marriage is unlawful) and marries another commits adultery." [His] disciples said to him, "If that is the case of a man with his wife, it is better not to marry." He answered, "Not all can accept [this] word, but only those to whom that is granted. Some are incapable of marriage because they were born so; some, because they were made so by others; some, because they have renounced marriage for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Whoever can accept this ought to accept it."*

On the truths of creation only the Father has power. Not even Jesus Christ has power. If Christ Jesus does not have power, not even the Church have power. She might never dissolve what God has joined. She can say, guided by the Holy Spirit and by a rigorous historical investigation, if God has united or not united. however, she might never separate what God has united. Man has the faculty of not letting himself be united by God. Once he is united, he must remain united forever, until death. As Jesus Christ joined the human nature and cost him the cross, so the union of man with woman is lived from the cross.

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints give us the truth of marriage.

# After he placed his hands on them, he went away

# Gs 24,14-29; Ps 15,1-2a.5.7-8.11; Mt 19,13-15.

### 19 AUGUST

In Ancient Scripture, children were given and brought to God, so that they became children of promise on the eighth day from their birth. Circumcision made them Abraham's sons.

*God also said to Abraham: "On your part, you and your descendants after you must keep my covenant throughout the ages. This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you that you must keep: every male among you shall be circumcised. Circumcise the flesh of your foreskin, and that shall be the mark of the covenant between you and me. Throughout the ages, every male among you, when he is eight days old, shall be circumcised, including house born slaves and those acquired with money from any foreigner who is not of your blood. Yes, both the house born slaves and those acquired with money must be circumcised. Thus my covenant shall be in your flesh as an everlasting pact. If a male is uncircumcised, that is, if the flesh of his foreskin has not been cut away, such a one shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant" (Gen 17,9-14).*

The first born of Israel were offered, for the Passover law, on the fortieth day of their birth. They were offered and redeemed. They were a true gift to the Lord. Jesus Christ was also offered to the Father on the fortieth day. His sacrifice was only postponed. He had to be offered by his Mother to the Father on Mount Golgotha.

*"When the Lord, your God, has brought you into the land of the Canaanites, which he swore to you and your fathers he would give you, you shall dedicate to the Lord every son that opens the womb; and all the male firstlings of your animals shall belong to the Lord. Every first-born of an ass you shall redeem with a sheep. If you do not redeem it, you shall break its neck. Every first-born son you must redeem. If your son should ask you later on, 'What does this mean?' you shall tell him, 'With a strong hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, that place of slavery. When Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the Lord killed every first-born in the land of Egypt, every first-born of man and of beast. That is why I sacrifice to the Lord everything of the male sex that opens the womb, and why I redeem every first-born of my sons.' Let this, then, be as a sign on your hand and as a pendant on your forehead: with a strong hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt" (Ex 14,11-16).*

Every child is already God’s from the very first moment of his conception. It is his for a twofold cause. Because the fruit of the womb is for his blessing. It is He who makes a man and a woman fertile. Fertility does not belong to the order of nature. Blessing is an action subsequent to creation. God first creates and then blesses, making the human couple fruitful. If the child is the fruit of his grace, it is God’s in the same way as he is of his parents. The second cause for which the child is already God’s is because the soul is created directly by God at the time of conception. Being the soul a true present creation of God, the son is necessarily also his own. Abortion is a very serious offense to the Lord, because it is the killing of his work. He has place the blessing, created the soul, ensured that the flesh become a living being and then to this creature, made by Him with so much love, life is taken away. Abortion is not just a crime against humanity. It is a crime against God. This is the severity of this horrid sin. Every conceived person before being the son of man is God's work and creation.

*Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked them, but Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." After he placed his hands on them, he went away.*

Jesus asks the disciples to allow him to bless the children of his Father. They are the true children of the kingdom, because for them everything is a gift. Life and everything else necessary for it is a gift. Jesus wants everybody to become like children. Everyone is seen as a gift from the Father and for all things the Father is blessed, thanked and praised. The first thing that must be seen as the gift of the Father is the Law, to which all obedience is to be given. We are like children when we deliver life to the Father as his belonging.

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints make us a gift in Christ to the Father.

# Let it be done for you as you wish

# Is 56,1.6-7; Ps 66,2-3.5-6.8; Rm 11,13-15.29-32; Mt 15,21-28.

### 20 AUGUST – XX SUNDAY O.T.

In the Gospel there is an almost invisible filigree, present in almost all of Jesus' miracles. Christ the Lord is ready to satisfy every man's desire - as long as it is not immoral and does not conform to the eternal law of his kingdom - provided that seeker believes with a live faith and deep conviction that nothing is impossible for Christ Jesus. When these two conditions are met, every miracle is done and every grace granted. The consequences of the action of Jesus are for us a heavy, indeed very heavy responsibility. That means everything is from our heart. Our heart can modify, transform and change the history of the world or leave it as it is, consumed by selfishness, idolatry, immorality, all sorts of spiritual disorder, infinite wars of falsehood and ignorance. All the great saints believed that the Lord would have given all to their faith and deep conviction and they transformed history. For Saul, everything is from the faith that animates and moves him.

*Since, then, we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed, therefore I spoke," we too believe and therefore speak, knowing that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and place us with you in his presence. Everything indeed is for you, so that the grace bestowed in abundance on more and more people may cause the thanksgiving to overflow for the glory of God. Therefore, we are not discouraged; rather, although our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to what is seen but to what is unseen; for what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal (2Cor 4,13-18).*

This Cananean Woman knows that the history of her daughter tormented by a demon is in her faith. Faith depends on her insistence and her afflicted cry. The more she cries, the more Jesus will be obliged to listen to her. She has decided: she will cry after Christ Jesus from morning to night and from evening to morning, until she will not have obtained the grace of healing or deliverance. To faith she combines strong conviction to strong conviction the cry of piety. Might Jesus deny her the grace? Having the conditions been set, never might he do it. Grace must be granted and it immediately. however, before making her the miracle, Jesus submits her a further test. He tests her heart and the reaction of her meekness and her love. Having found her wise and loving, he surrenders.

*Then Jesus went from that place and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman of that district came and called out, "Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David! My daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not say a word in answer to her. His disciples came and asked him, "Send her away, for she keeps calling out after us." He said in reply, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But the woman came and did him homage, saying, "Lord, help me." He said in reply, "It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters." Then Jesus said to her in reply, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that hour.*

Desires are many and also good. Faith is often lacking. People do not even turn to Christ the Lord so that he hears them. Even if they ask it, there is almost always lack of insistence, because there is no firm belief that history is placed by Him in our hands. Before a heart praying according to the gospel rules, nothing will ever be denied and history will take on a new face because of an invisible reality that is in the heart of man. Man often flaunts for the material strength he can show. Yet all these forces are ephemeral. They have never solved a single problem in history. They have created an infinity of them, but solved none. The strength of God's man is invisible. It can reach any place. It can modify any history. Conditions are small and simple: faith, deep conviction and insistence.

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints make us of true, pure and holy faith.

**AUGUST 2017**

## THIRD DECADE OF AUGUST

# If you wish to be perfect

# Jdg 2,11-19; Ps 105,34-37.39-40.43-44; Mt 19,16-22.

### 21 AUGUST

Not only in the New Testament, but also in the Old, the pious man, with the fear of the Lord, eager to know not only the things of the earth, but also those after his death, knowing that good and evil do not "produce" the same eternity, wondered, "Lord, who will dwell in your tent? Who will be with you for eternity?" There is always a double answer to the question: eternal life is for those who love the Lord. Those who live in disobedience to his Law and deliver themselves to evil will never live with Him. For all of them, they will be no place beside the Lord.

*O Lord, who may abide in Your tent? Who may dwell on Your holy hill? He who walks with integrity, and works righteousness, And speaks truth in his heart. He does not slander with his tongue, Nor does evil to his neighbour, Nor takes up a reproach against his friend; In whose eyes a reprobate is despised, But who honours those who fear the Lord; He swears to his own hurt and does not change; He does not put out his money at interest, Nor does he take a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things will never be shaken (Ps 15 (!4) 1-5).*

*I will sing of loving kindness and justice, To You, O Lord, I will sing praises.**I will give heed to the blameless way. When will You come to me? I will walk within my house in the integrity of my heart.**I will set no worthless thing before my eyes; I hate the work of those who fall away; It shall not fasten its grip on me.**A perverse heart shall depart from me; I will know no evil.**Whoever secretly slanders his neighbour, him I will destroy; No one who has a haughty look and an arrogant heart will I endure.**My eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me; He who walks in a blameless way is the one who will minister to me.**He who practices deceit shall not dwell within my house; He who speaks falsehood shall not maintain his position before me.**Every morning I will destroy all the wicked of the land, So as to cut off from the city of the Lord all those who do iniquity (Ps 101 (100) 1-8).*

Jesus always gives the same answer: *"If you want to enter life, keep the commandments: do not kill, you will not commit adultery, you will not steal, you will not bear false witness, honour your father and mother and love your neighbour as yourself."* Jesus came to liberate man also from this *"selfishness"* of love and charity for himself. He wants that man does not think of saving only himself but that he is capable of such a perfect love as to offer all his life to God for the salvation of all his brothers. There is no greater love than this: working with full availability of the body, mind, heart, thoughts, will and desires only so that those who do not know God may know him and those who are on a path of perdition so that they stand on the way of justice and truth, which leads to eternal life. For this he asks this wealthy man to sell his goods, give the revenue to the poor and then consecrate himself entirely to the mission of the world salvation.

*Now someone approached him and said, "Teacher, what good must I do to gain eternal life?" He answered him, "Why do you ask me about the good? There is only One who is good. If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments." He asked him, "Which ones?" And Jesus replied, " 'You shall not kill; you shall not commit adultery; you shall not steal; you shall not bear false witness; honour your father and your mother'; and 'you shall love your neighbour as yourself.'" The young man said to him, "All of these I have observed. What do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you wish to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to (the) poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." When the young man heard this statement, he went away sad, for he had many possessions.*

The two things cannot be reconciled: serving the personal goods, even in an honest and holy way and serving the good of the salvation of others. Man has only one heart, one mind and one body. Either he give himself for the earth or he gives himself for the salvation of the brethren in a full way, without saving any space for himself. Selfishness prevails over love. Personal property prevents the greater good. Little perfection hinders true perfection. This man left sad. His possessions hold his heart. But can an egotistical ephemeral good have more strength than everlasting universal good?

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints free us from selfish love.

# Who then can be saved?

# Jdg 6,11-24a; Ps 84,9-14; Mt 19,23-30.

### 22 AUGUST

For some miserable ephemeral goods, of a moment, the rich man rejects the great eternal good. The words of Jesus are held by the disciples without appeal: *"Verily I say unto you. Hardly a rich man will enter the kingdom of heaven. I repeat to you: it is easier for a camel to walk through the needle's eye, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."* Indeed, they extend it to every man: *"Then who can be saved?"* Jesus' answer is even more striking: *"This is impossible for men, but to God all is possible."* Jesus' speech is clear. Riches imprison the heart. If at first it is honest and holy, little by little it will begin to become dishonest and wicked. There is no eternal salvation in the dishonesty and wickedness of the heart.

Can you go back from wickedness and dishonesty? Can you be converted? Can you repent and start a new life? Jesus attests that you can. But not with man's strength, but with the mighty grace of God. However, the Lord does not always act directly. He usually acts indirectly through his ministers. It is up to them to free their hearts from the afflictions of wealth, so that they devoted themselves to the service of God in truth, justice, great charity and if it is required, even in great renunciation. Next to Jesus we find wealthy and well-off men. There are women who assist the Master and the disciples with their belongings. Jesus himself converted Levi and Zacchaeus. Lazarus and his two sisters, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus were poor people.

The theological principle that needs to be highlighted requires that it is said that salvation is the fruit of the grace of Christ and of the grace of the Body of Christ which is the Church. If the Church, like Christ Jesus, produces grace, the heavenly Father can convert many hearts with her. However, if she does not produce any grace, let her not hope that anyone can be converted, either rich or poor, for even the salvation of the poor is the fruit of the grace of the Body of Christ which is his Church. Then, it is right for each one to ask: But do I, part of the Body of Christ, his Church, walk from truth to truth, from grace to grace and from wisdom to wisdom, do I become daily greater river of salvation for my brothers? If I am not a river of grace, no one will be converted because of me and the man remains imprisoned in his spiritual misery, whether rich or poor, learned or uneducated, powerful or weak, wealthy or miserable.

*Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Amen, I say to you, it will be hard for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and said, "Who then can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "For human beings this is impossible, but for God all things are possible."*

*Then Peter said to him in reply, "We have given up everything and followed you. What will there be for us?" Jesus said to them, "Amen, I say to you that you who have followed me, in the new age, when the Son of Man is seated on his throne of glory, will yourselves sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands for the sake of my name will receive a hundred times more, and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.*

Peter and the others have left everything to follow Jesus. What will they receive in return? Jesus has already given the answer in the invitation made to the rich man: *"You will have a treasure in heaven. You will achieve the highest perfection"*. Now the Master adds two more rewards: *"In the heavens they will sit on twelve thrones to judge the tribes of Israel. They will be put above all others. On earth they will have a hundred times as much as of what they have left."* Nothing will be missing in life on earth, and nothing will be missing in glory in the heavens. On earth their life will be above every other life, in heaven their glory will be above all other glory. They are placed high, above all, on the earth and in the heavens. The man gives his earthly nothing to God, God gives him his everlasting whole; who earns is the man, he receives everything on earth and in the heavens.

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints make us a total gift to Christ Jesus.

# Am I not free to do as I wish with my own money?

# Jdg 9,6-15; Ps 20,2-7; Mt 20,1-16.

### 23 AUGUST

The rules of the kingdom of heaven are not established by man. No man has been given this power. They are all given by the Lord, by God, and by no other. Not only do they come from heaven, but they are also unchangeable forever. Even the ways of their application over time, over the course of centuries, must come from the Holy Spirit. In the Spirit the rules are known, in the Spirit they are taught, in the Spirit they are applied. Whoever is without the Spirit of the Lord, is obliged to grow in day by day, will always replace God's will with his own and the divine rules with human precepts. This is the reproach that the Lord addresses to his people through Isaiah. Resumed all by Christ Jesus and addressed to the scribes and the Pharisees who always opposed him.

*The Lord said: Since this people draws near with words only and honors me with their lips alone, though their hearts are far from me, And their reverence for me has become routine observance of the precepts of men, Therefore I will again deal with this people in surprising and wondrous fashion: The wisdom of its wise men shall perish and the understanding of its prudent men be hid. Woe to those who would hide their plans too deep for the Lord! Who work in the dark, saying, "Who sees us, or who knows us?" Your perversity is as though the potter were taken to be the clay: As though what is made should say of its maker, "He made me not!" Or the vessel should say of the potter, "He does not understand." But a very little while, and Lebanon shall be changed into an orchard, and the orchard be regarded as a forest! On that day the deaf shall hear the words of a book; And out of gloom and darkness, the eyes of the blind shall see. The lowly will ever find joy in the Lord, and the poor rejoice in the Holy One of Israel. For the tyrant will be no more and the arrogant will have gone; All who are alert to do evil will be cut off, those whose mere word condemns a man, Who ensnare his defender at the gate, and leave the just man with an empty claim (Is 29,13-21).*

The first rule of the kingdom of heaven wants that one enters it by call. All the history of salvation from Noah to Christ Jesus is by call. All of Jesus' life was a mission to call. The entire history of the Church has to be transformed into a going for the world to call so that people enter the kingdom of God. If the Church does not call, the kingdom dies and she herself dies. She exists to always call. She calls and she is the Church of Christ Jesus. She does not call and she is not Church of Jesus Christ. Mission is the essence of Christ's life, it must be the essence of the life of the Church.

*"The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out at dawn to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with them for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. Going out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, 'You too go into my vineyard, and I will give you what is just.' So they went off. (And) he went out again around noon, and around three o'clock, and did likewise. Going out about five o'clock, he found others standing around, and said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' They answered, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You too go into my vineyard.' When it was evening the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Summon the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and ending with the first.' When those who had started about five o'clock came, each received the usual daily wage. So when the first came, they thought that they would receive more, but each of them also got the usual wage. And on receiving it they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last ones worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us, who bore the day's burden and the heat.' He said to one of them in reply, 'My friend, I am not cheating you. Did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what is yours and go. What if I wish to give this last one the same as you? (Or) am I not free to do as I wish with my own money? Are you envious because I am generous?' Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last."*

The second rule of the kingdom announces the Lord's unquestionable action in paying those who have accepted the invitation and have gone to work in his vineyard. God's will in giving ministries, charismas, responsibilities, particular missions and final rewards is only from his eternal wisdom. The human mind might never enter this mystery.

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints teach us the rules of the kingdom.

# Rabbi, you are the Son of God

# Rev 21,9b-14; Ps 144,10-13ab.17-18; Jn 1,45-51.

### 24 AUGUST

Nathanael is a pure-hearted man with no deceit. He is a seeker of God. In fact, it is of pure hearts seeking and seeing the Lord. Nathanael seeks and sees the Lord in Scripture; it is the Book in which he seeks, because he knows that it is in it that God has manifested himself and it is for it that today and always he reveals himself in his purest truth. Having Philip reported of having found *"the One of whom Moses, in the Law and the prophets had written about: Jesus, the Son of Joseph, of Nazareth,"* he rightly replies that Scripture does not announce that the Messiah would have come from Nazareth. The Son of David must necessarily be of Bethlehem. However, since he is a pure of heart and mind, being he a true seeker of God, does not question Philip's words and goes with him, wanting to know Jesus. Here is the spirit of true seeker of God: even if the history he heard attests him some contradiction with Scripture, it is right to personally verify history. As listening to Scripture serves nothing, without personal verification of it, so also listening to history is often not enough and personal verification is needed. This procedure must always be done when our science and conscience warn us of some divergence, contrast and difference between what we know with certainty and what is proclaimed us as pure truth. In fact, in Philip's words, there is certainty of an encountered truth. But in his words there is a truth and an appearance. Can appearance cancel the truth? Verification is needed.

Nathanael did not even speak to Jesus when words that struck him in his heart and soul come to his ear: *"Here is indeed an Israelite in whom there is no falsehood."* As a true connoisseur of Scripture, he knows that only a prophet of the Lord can speak this way. They are not words that arise from a man's heart. When Jesus adds that He had already seen him even before Philip spoke to him, then his profession of faith becomes perfect: *"Rabbi, you are the Son of God, you are the King of Israel."* In the face of history all the apparent contradictions with Scripture fall. The Messiah is before his eyes. That's enough. Tomorrow he will find out that Jesus was not born in Nazareth, but in Bethlehem. His origin from Nazareth was just a *"historical fake"*. Faith always walks between Scripture and history. The author and the interpreter of the former and the latter is only the Holy Spirit. It must never be the mind of man. Thus Nathanael teaches us that in the face of historical truth, one must necessarily open to its welcome. It is welcomed, then it will be understood. Jesus is the perfect man who is from God. This is a very pure historical truth. Then the way to place him in Scripture will also be found.

*Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one about whom Moses wrote in the law, and also the prophets, Jesus, son of Joseph, from Nazareth." But Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, "Here is a true Israelite. There is no duplicity in him." Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, I saw you under the fig tree." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel." Jesus answered and said to him, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this." And he said to him, "Amen, amen, I say to you, you will see the sky opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."*

Jesus reassures Nathanael, telling him that He is infinitely beyond the same Scripture. The ancient Revelation contains him in a veiled, almost hidden way. When he will manifest himself in all his truth, only then it will be possible to know who truly and really the Christ of God is. They will see the open sky and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man. Already two prophecies are joined: that on the Messiah and the other on the Son of Man. The Son of Man is the Messiah. The Messiah is the Son of Man. The Messiah is also the only Mediator between God and all of humanity, between Heaven and Earth. For Him God descends on the world. For Him the world goes to God. The very pure truth of Jesus the Lord!

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints teach us the truth of Jesus.

# Tested him by asking

# Rt 1,1.3-6.14b-16.22; Ps 145,5-10; Mt 22,34-40.

### 25 AUGUST

In our contemporary world, where even the disgust and abominations that make heaven and earth shake are called, defined, proclaimed and declared very pure love, let us try to understand what Jesus tells the doctor of the law by replacing one word. Instead of *"Lord your God"*, let's say the word *"Law, Gospel".* Everything gets a new light. This is the literal answer of Jesus: *"You will love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind. You will love your neighbour as yourself."* Let's try now with the substitution: *"You will love the Law, the Gospel, the Word of your God and of Jesus, with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind. You will love your neighbour as yourself, respecting the Commandments and the Law of Holiness that the Lord has given you."* God and Word, Christ and Gospel, Love and obedience to the Law, to the Commandments, to the Gospel and to the Word must always be one thing. Making two things of them is placing oneself out of the true religion, true faith and true love. True faith and true love are in unity.

It is a truth. Whoever reads the Scripture, the Gospel and every Word, must confess, is obliged to declare to the whole world that man has never been given the authority to legislate what is good and what is bad, what he must do what he is not allowed to operate. Everything descends strictly, to the slightest details from the Lord. The gift of wisdom, intellect, science, fear of the Lord, fortitude, piety and council are given concerning the understanding and implement of the will of the Lord. Never to legislate what is good and what is bad. Today we are in front of a Christian man who is post-writing, post-Gospel, post-listening and post-faith. Modern man wants to decide himself what is love, right, truth, Gospel and revelation. Abortion is love, divorce great charity, euthanasia compassion, marrying between two people of the same sex most pure will of God. By proceeding in this abolition of the revealed, donated datum, man is made a constructor of the religion of himself. We are also far beyond *"do it yourself religion".* Man has become *"religion of himself"*. Religion refers to some reference to a transcendence. Man, constituting religion of himself, completely abolishes transcendence, is imprisoned in an immanence from which it becomes impossible to get out.

*When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them [a scholar of the law] tested him by asking, "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments."*

Replacing the word "the Lord your God" with *"Law, Gospel, Commandment"* one also avoids falling into that trap of death that identifies man's love with God's love. Today it is said: *"It suffices to love the man and you love God. Of what use are the religious structures of the sacraments, of the Holy Mass, of all the ecclesial apparatus and of other similar things?"* He falls into this trap who thinks that one can love from his own heart, according to his own will, with personalized modes and his own choices. You do not love as you please nor by sentiment. One only loves by obedience and it is to every Word that came out, comes out and will come out of the mouth of God. Without the Word we are always in a religion without any transcendence. It is once again the *"personal self religion "*. From time to time one establishes the rules of his bond with the neighbour, without any bond of transcendence with the Lord. It is this shift from God to his own heart, in the total absence of any relationship with the Law, the creator of all the moral degradation that is witnessed today. All the believer's work is in the overturning and destruction of the *"personal self religion."*

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints give us the religion of the Law.

# You have but one master, the Messiah

# Rt 2,1-3.8-11; 4,13-17; Ps 127,1-6; Mt 23,1-12.

### 26 AUGUST

It is right to ask: why does Jesus tell his disciples to practice and observe all that is the teaching of the scribes and the Pharisees, knowing that their doctrine is polluted and their religious life is a continuous scandal? But what scribes and Pharisees does the Lord refer to? Are they the ancient Scribes and Pharisees, or also the new ones that always arise in any religion, even in the purest and most holy, such as that of Christ Jesus? If we replace Moses' chair with Christ's chair, everything perhaps will become clearer and understanding easier: "The scribes and the Pharisees have been sitting in the chair of Christ the Lord. Practice and observe all that they tell you, but do not act according to their works, for they say and do not do." Now everything is clearer and more comprehensible.

In the faith and religion of Jesus Christ, the one and only Master to be imitated is Jesus Christ: *"Come to me, all you who are tired and oppressed, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke over you and learn from me, that am gentle and humble in heart and you will find refreshment for your life. In fact, my yoke is sweet and my light weight"* (Mt 11: 28-30). Whoever wants to walk in truth must never look away from the Divine Master. As he behaved before every scribe and Pharisee, we must behave before the scribes and the Pharisees of the New Covenant. Jesus has always given his perfect obedience in everything taught by scribes and Pharisees, not in opposition to the will of his Father. He obeyed, but respecting the Father's mode, the true one. Never came he into conflict with the Law to be lived and to be observed.

The contrast, but always lived in the highest prudence, wisdom and intelligence of the Holy Spirit, was born when there was an explicit command of the Father on the manifestation of the divine will. We know that in order to bear witness to the Father's truth about Him, He obeyed the scribes and Pharisees by letting himself be handed over to the Pagans. He also obeyed the Pagans, allowing them to nail him to the cross. Jesus asks for one thing: in contrasts, in divergences, the Christian must always act with the Holy Spirit's wisdom, meekness, humility, surrender and perfect obedience. What Jesus does not love is the rebellion, war, contempt, judgment and condemnation of the person exercising authority. The Lord will judge each one according to his ministry. Scribes and Pharisees will be judged for the ministry of command. All the others will be judged for the ministry of obedience. We are commanded to obey they to command.

*Then Jesus spoke to the crowds and to his disciples, saying, "The scribes and the Pharisees have taken their seat on the chair of Moses. Therefore, do and observe all things whatsoever they tell you, but do not follow their example. For they preach but they do not practice. They tie up heavy burdens (hard to carry) and lay them on people's shoulders, but they will not lift a finger to move them. All their works are performed to be seen. They widen their phylacteries and lengthen their tassels. They love places of honour at banquets, seats of honour in synagogues, greetings in marketplaces, and the salutation 'Rabbi.' As for you, do not be called 'Rabbi.' You have but one teacher, and you are all brothers. Call no one on earth your father; you have but one Father in heaven. Do not be called 'Master'; you have but one master, the Messiah. The greatest among you must be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted.*

The religion and faith of Jesus Christ is a new relationship of humility and gentleness with every man. The Divine Master asks his disciples to renounce their lives as well, to show that they are moved only by the greatest love. Before naughty, foolish and ignorant scribes and Pharisees, Jesus' attitude has always been of humility and meekness, of humility and meekness must be that of his disciples. Humility and meekness require that the last place is always taken, which is that of a perfect obedience to every Word of God and of Christ. Obeying scribes and Pharisees one does not obey them, but Jesus who commands this obedience. One obeys them and obeys Jesus. He is saved.

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints make us obedient to Christ Jesus.

# Who do people say that the Son of Man is?

# Is 22,19-23; Ps 137,1-3.6.8; Rm 11,33-36; Mt 16,13-20.

### 27 AUGUST – XXI SUNDAY O.T.

Let us imagine that Jesus, just as he did with the two disciples of Emmaus, today encounters a Christian in the street and asks him: *"Who is Jesus Christ for you? What do you tell me about Him? I would like to become a Christian too. Could you tell me what the difference between one who is a Christian and one who is not Christian, is?"* I am sure that Christ Jesus would never know his truth and would not even know why it is a good thing for him to become a Christian, to embrace the faith and religion of the Master of Nazareth.

What do people say of Jesus today? They say that: *"Jesus must be erased from the religious history of humanity; his Gospel is not a law of life; there is no need for either a saviour or redeemers; all religions are the same; there is no pre-eminence either of truth or morality of one on the others."* They also say: *"It must not even appear that the Christian religion must be considered the only religion in which the true man is made. Nor is it fair that it is given a prominent place. It is like the others, if not inferior to the others."*

Who says this of Jesus are not those who do not know him, but those who say are his disciples. It is from these that the highest betrayal of Jesus, his delivery to indifference, ignorance, non-knowledge, forgetfulness, erasure from history, abolition of his worship, denial of his uniqueness of Saviour and Redeemer, abolition of his universal mediation in truth, light and grace, re-composition and new creation of man, justification and elevation, come.

If Jesus, always in incognito, approached the great doctors and professors of theological science and sacred doctrine and asked for their opinion on the Christ of God, they too would be in great embarrassment. For many of them the Christ of God was of God only for yesterday, for the time that by now has passed. Today we need new ways, new roads and new paths. To a changing world one can no longer announce a Gospel born for other times and other men. Today everything has changed. Religions have been abolished as a way of salvation and redemption. Jesus has become useless as all other founders of religion. Salvation is assured to everyone. There is no perdition.

*When Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus said to him in reply, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Then he strictly ordered his disciples to tell no one that he was the Messiah.*

On earth, one alone will never lose the faith and truth of Jesus Christ: Peter and the Church built upon Him. But Peter must never behave as he behaved in the courtyard of the High Priest. He must never be afraid of the world and say that he does not know Christ. The world would take advantage of this fragility or fear of men and would be overjoyed for all the nefariousness it says about Christ Jesus. Nor must he behave as he behaved in Antioch. First he sat at table with the pagans, and then for fear of the Jews he withdrew from them, causing not a few discomforts in the faith of the simple and the little ones. Nor yet must he ever tell the Lord that he has never eaten anything unclean, for no man is unclean to the Lord. All are to be redeemed and saved. Finally, he must not even behave as he did in the house of Cornelius, letting himself be anticipated by the Holy Spirit before making the right decision. He must always challenge the whole world and say who Christ is according to Christ's truth and from the truth of Christ take all those decisions so that Christ and his truth enlighten the hearts.

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints give us the truth of Christ Jesus.

# Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites

# 1Ts 1,1-5.8b-10; Ps 149,1-6; Mt 23,13-22.

### 28 AUGUST

The first obligation of every worshiper of the living and true God is that of keeping his Word pure and intact, avoiding to introduce into it words and thoughts of the earth. This primary and essential duty is highly recommended by our God.

*Now, Israel, hear the statutes and decrees which I am teaching you to observe, that you may live, and may enter in and take possession of the land which the Lord, the God of your fathers, is giving you. In your observance of the commandments of the Lord, your God, which I enjoin upon you, you shall not add to what I command you nor subtract from it (Dt 4,1-2).*

This divine will and recommendation have always been disowned by those who were instructed in the teaching of the Word of the Lord, which they reduced to a lie. All Jeremiah's prophecy is a strong and persistent denunciation of the Lord against all deformations, transformations and changes made in his Law and in his Word.

*A shocking, horrible thing has happened in the land: The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests teach as they wish; Yet my people will have it so* *(Jer 5,30-31). To whom shall I speak? whom shall I warn, and be heard? See! their ears are uncircumcised, they cannot give heed; See, the word of the Lord has become for them an object of scorn, which they will not have. Small and great alike, all are greedy for gain; prophet and priest, all practice fraud. They would repair, as though it were nought, the injury to my people: "Peace, peace!" they say, though there is no peace. They are odious; they have done abominable things, yet they are not at all ashamed, they know not how to blush (Jer 6,10-15). How can you say, "We are wise, we have the law of the Lord"? Why, that has been changed into falsehood by the lying pen of the scribes! The wise are confounded, dismayed and ensnared; Since they have rejected the word of the Lord, of what avail is their wisdom? Small and great alike, all are greedy for gain, prophet and priest, all practice fraud. They would repair, as though it were nought, the injury to the daughter of my people: "Peace, peace!" they say, though there is no peace. They are odious; they have done abominable things, yet they are not at all ashamed, they know not how to blush (Jer 8,8-12).*

Is the faith and religion of Jesus Christ immune from this danger of transformation of the gospel into lie, falsehood? Not at all. Today this has already happened. It does not have to happen. The whole Gospel has been reduced to lie by many pens of scribes and Pharisees, doctors and masters of the Law. There is no life from the lie.

*"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites. You lock the kingdom of heaven before human beings. You do not enter yourselves, nor do you allow entrance to those trying to enter. "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites. You traverse sea and land to make one convert, and when that happens you make him a child of Gehenna twice as much as yourselves. "Woe to you, blind guides, who say, 'If one swears by the temple, it means nothing, but if one swears by the gold of the temple, one is obligated.' Blind fools, which is greater, the gold, or the temple that made the gold sacred? And you say, 'If one swears by the altar, it means nothing, but if one swears by the gift on the altar, one is obligated.' You blind ones, which is greater, the gift, or the altar that makes the gift sacred? One who swears by the altar swears by it and all that is upon it; one who swears by the temple swears by it and by him who dwells in it; one who swears by heaven swears by the throne of God and by him who is seated on it.*

But can a disciple of Jesus preserve in the purest truth the Gospel, so that it may become the way of salvation for every man? The Word can be kept in the truth, provided the disciple is kept in the Word, by guarding himself in Christ and in the Holy Spirit. As soon as the Christian comes out of Christ and the Holy Spirit, even with one venial sin deliberately committed, he has altered the truth of the Gospel for himself, he will always alter it for others. He has not kept his life in the Gospel, he can never guard the lives of others. Pharisees and scribes are out of the Word. With what fruit? All the Word has been brought out of its truth by them. There is no truth in them, there is no truth in the Word. There is no truth in the Word, because the heart is without the Holy Spirit, that is the only source where the truth is drawn and placed in the Word.

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints make us truth of the Holy Spirit.

# She replied, "The head of John the Baptist

# Jer 1,17-19; Ps 70,1-6.15.17; Mk 6,17-29.

### 29 AUGUST

An ancient hymn composed in honour of St. John, is a powerful prayer to Him, so that he purifies his servants from all sin. Only with a pure heart can one sing his heroic deeds. In truth, John's deeds must be eternally sung. He is the greatest among women born. He is the prophet that announces the fulfilment of all the prophecies of God.

*“Ut queant laxis resonare fibris mira gestorum famuli tuorum, solve polluti labii reatum, Sancte Iohannes" – "To be able your servants to sing with free voices the wonders of your heroic deeds, erase sin from their impure lip, oh St. John" (from this hymn to the seven notes of music were drawn. Later the old Ut was replaced by the Do).*

Here is how the liturgy in its preface sings the heroic deeds of St. John the Precursor.

*We praise you for the wonders operated in St. John the Baptist, who among all the women born you have chosen and consecrated to prepare the way to Christ the Lord. From the maternal womb he exulted for the coming of the redeemer; in his birth he foretold the wonders of Messianic times and, the only one among all the prophets, pointed the world the Lamb of our ransom. He baptized in the waters of the Jordan your very own Son, author of Baptism and made him the supreme witness with the outpouring of blood.*

The eye of faith invites us to look beyond Herod's stupidity, Heredia’s wickedness, the lust and lasciviousness of Salome. These have and will always exist. The world is foolishness, wickedness, lust, impurity, concupiscence, ignorance and sin. It is all under the rule of the prince of the world. We are asked to look at the fruits collected by John with his so violent a death. After Christ Jesus, the Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph, his glory shines in the heavens above all other saints. Only seeing and contemplating the glory that martyrdom produces, martyrs transform their blood into a sacrifice, a holocaust, an offering pleasing to God, in the greatest forgiveness for their executioners and in prayer so that the heavenly Father converts their hearts.

*Herod was the one who had John arrested and bound in prison on account of Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip, whom he had married. John had said to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." Herodias harboured a grudge against him and wanted to kill him but was unable to do so. Herod feared John, knowing him to be a righteous and holy man, and kept him in custody. When he heard him speak he was very much perplexed, yet he liked to listen to him. She had an opportunity one day when Herod, on his birthday, gave a banquet for his courtiers, his military officers, and the leading men of Galilee. Herodias's own daughter came in and performed a dance that delighted Herod and his guests. The king said to the girl, "Ask of me whatever you wish and I will grant it to you." He even swore (many things) to her, "I will grant you whatever you ask of me, even to half of my kingdom." She went out and said to her mother, "What shall I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the Baptist." The girl hurried back to the king's presence and made her request, "I want you to give me at once on a platter the head of John the Baptist." The king was deeply distressed, but because of his oaths and the guests he did not wish to break his word to her. So he promptly dispatched an executioner with orders to bring back his head. He went off and beheaded him in the prison. He brought in the head on a platter and gave it to the girl. The girl in turn gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.*

The Christian is always asked this great vision of faith: seeing the end for which the Lord allows martyrdom and not its authors. If authors of martyrdom are look at the heart enters into a turbine of anguish and can fall even in non-forgiving, in non-prayer and in non-mercy. But if you look at the Lord and the fruits He wants to gather, then peace, serenity, joy comes down in it through the work of the Holy Spirit and blood, pain, suffering are transformed into grace of salvation and redemption for the executioners. One offers the martyrdom of the spirit, soul and body to God, so that with that blood he can wash the whole world from all sin. Nothing is more necessary to man at all times than a very pure vision of faith.

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints give us a very pure faith.

# You are like whitewashed tombs

# 1 Ts 2,9-13; Ps 138,7-12; Mt 23,27-32.

### 30 AUGUST

This word of Jesus: *"Woe to you, scribes and hypocritical Pharisees, who look like whitewashed sepulchres: they look beautiful, but inside they are full of bones of dead and of all rot"*, it is perfectly understood, if to it is added what the Gospel according to Luke refers: *"Woe to you, because you are like those sepulchres that cannot be seen and people pass over without knowing it" (Lk 11:44)*.

In Matthew, the rotten and corrupt spiritual condition of the scribe and the Pharisee is revealed. A religion, such as that of the Creator and Lord of heaven and earth that should have given splendour of truth and holiness to the heart and mind, by them is reduced to a tool of corruption, rottenness, dishonesty, impurity, theft, immorality, concupiscence and denial of God and their enthroning into his place. Truly the corruption of the best thing is worst. They, who should have shown the beauty of the Law, the Commandments, the Faith and the obedience, with their rottenness show where the malignity, wickedness, stupidity and insipidity even of the men placed up high by God for the defence of his Light, is able to reach. God shows to the prophet Ezekiel all the nefariousness that was committed in his temple.

*Son of man, he ordered, dig through the wall. I dug through the wall and saw a door. Enter, he said to me, and see the abominable evils which they are doing here. I entered and saw that all around upon the wall were pictured the figures of all kinds of creeping things and loathsome beasts (all the idols of the house of Israel). Before these stood seventy of the elders of the house of Israel, among whom stood Jaazaniah, son of Shaphan, each of them with his censer in his hand, and the fragrance of the incense was rising upward. Then he said to me: Do you see, son of man, what each of these elders of the house of Israel is doing in his idol room? They think: "The Lord cannot see us; the Lord has forsaken the land" (Ez 8,8-12).*

In Luke, the spiritual condition is aggravated by a second baffling truth. Scribes and Pharisees, who are ministers of light, truth, wisdom, purity and holiness of God, become contaminants of his people. Contact with them not only does not raise them, it contaminates them. It transmits them the same immorality and disaster that is their very nature. From them they have to keep away as you do from tombs so as not to contaminate yourself. However, as they are invisible sepulchres, they make people unclean and these do not even realize it. So much is the contamination power that emanates being in contact with them. They manage to lead the people out of the Law of the Lord. They carry out the opposite ministry. This work which is of Satan is done by them to perfection. Satan can sit comfortably in his hell. On Earth, these ministers of the Lord are the ones to think of turning all light into darkness.

*"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites. You are like whitewashed tombs, which appear beautiful on the outside, but inside are full of dead men's bones and every kind of filth. Even so, on the outside you appear righteous, but inside you are filled with hypocrisy and evildoing. "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites. You build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the memorials of the righteous, and you say, 'If we had lived in the days of our ancestors, we would not have joined them in shedding the prophets' blood.' Thus you bear witness against yourselves that you are the children of those who murdered the prophets; now fill up what your ancestors measured out!*

This severe warning of Jesus to scribes and Pharisees of his time, applies much more to the Scribes and Pharisees of his Gospel, his religion and his faith. For them the Gospel is kept as Gospel and for them it becomes a thought of the earth, incapable of performing any salvation and redemption. When a scribe from a minister of light becomes Satan's servant, for the religion of Christ the Lord is truly the end. He destroys souls more a scribe who has become Satan's servant from within, that an army of non-believers who attack the faith from outside. It is the scribe, servant of the devil, that hands over the heart of those who are *"indoctrinated"* by him to the Prince of evil for perdition.

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints always make us givers of light.

# Will assign him a place with the hypocrites

# 1Ts 3,7-13; Ps 89,3-4.12-14.17; Mt 24,42-51.

### 31 AUGUST

Sound Christian eschatology consists of four truths: death, judgment, hell and paradise. The Book of Sirach invites every man to act with righteousness and holiness in everything, recalling what his end will be: death to which judgment immediately follows, which will be of welcome in the Lord's tent, or of everlasting departure from Him.

*Do no evil, and evil will not overtake you; avoid wickedness, and it will turn aside from you. Sow not in the furrows of injustice, lest you harvest it sevenfold. Do not plot to repeat a sin; not even for one will you go unpunished. Say not: "He will appreciate my many gifts; the Most High will accept my offerings." Be not impatient in prayers, and neglect not the giving of alms. Laugh not at an embittered man; be mindful of him who exalts and humbles. Plot no mischief against your brother, nor against your friend and companion. Delight not in telling lie after lie, for it never results in good*. *Do not esteem yourself better than your fellows; remember, his wrath will not delay. More and more, humble your pride; what awaits man is worms.* *With your whole heart honour your father; your mother's birth pangs forget not. Remember, of these parents you were born; what can you give them for all they gave you? With all your soul, fear God, revere his priests. With all your strength, love your Creator, forsake not his ministers. Honour God and respect the priest; give him his portion as you have been commanded: First fruits and contributions, due sacrifices and holy offerings. To the poor man also extend your hand, that your blessing may be complete; Be generous to all the living, and withhold not your kindness from the dead. Avoid not those who weep, but mourn with those who mourn; Neglect not to visit the sick - for these things you will be loved. In whatever you do, remember your last days, and you will never sin (Cf. Sir 7,1-16).*

Today, sound biblical eschatology has been cancelled. Only indelible death is left of it, because it comes to all, without anyone knowing either the day or the hour. Judgment has been cancelled together with eternal hell. So that after death quickly from the earth one goes to heaven. With the cancellation of judgment and hell, the doors were opened to all immorality, dishonesty, stupidity, ignorance and bullying. Not having the man any obligation of bringing soul and body to heaven, he can live as he pleases. He can abandon himself to the most bizarre things. He can also worship an animal and change the laws of his nature. The end result is always the same. In the end, there will be only the glorious paradise for everyone. God's mercy will ultimately triumph over all evil. And it is as if one said, *"Man, you can sin, you can be immoral, you can be dishonest, you can do whatever you want. God's mercy is greater than your sin. In the end it will take you and bring you with it."*

*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.*

The eschatology of Jesus is certainly quite different from that taught and affirmed by his masters and doctors of his sacred science and his Word. So everyone is asked for a choice: believing in the Word of Jesus or believe in the word of his masters and doctors? Jesus himself invites us to beware of false prophets who come to us clothed as sheep, while they are rapacious wolves. How will we distinguish them? Observing their works. He who believes in Christ changes his life. He who does not believe will walk from sin to sin. Certainly his word is not worthy of faith, because it is not the Word of the Gospel and of Jesus.

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints make us true masters of Jesus.