**JULY 2019**

## FIRST DECADE OF JULY

## Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go

## Gn 18,16-33; Ps 102; Mt 8,18-22

### 1 JULY

Where does Jesus go? Where his Father sends him moment by moment, through motion and inspiration of his Holy Spirit. We find this truth revealed by Jesus himself in his discourse to the disciples at Jacob's well. Invited to take food, Jesus told them that his food is to do the will of the Father and to carry out his work. He has no other food to take. In some ways it is also the first answer given to the devil in the desert: "Man does not live only on bread, but on every Word that comes out of the mouth of the Lord". Jesus came not to do his will, but the will of the one who sent him. The Father speaks and commands. He listens and obeys.

*Meanwhile, the disciples urged him, "Rabbi, eat." But he said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know." So the disciples said to one another, "Could someone have brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of the one who sent me and to finish his work. Do you not say, 'In four months the harvest will be here'? I tell you, look up and see the fields ripe for the harvest. The reaper is already receiving his payment and gathering crops for eternal life, so that the sower and reaper can rejoice together. For here the saying is verified that 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap what you have not worked for; others have done the work, and you are sharing the fruits of their work" (Jn 4,31-38).*

*Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst. But I told you that although you have seen (me), you do not believe. Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and I will not reject anyone who comes to me, because I came down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of the one who sent me. And this is the will of the one who sent me, that I should not lose anything of what he gave me, but that I should raise it (on) the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life, and I shall raise him (on) the last day" (Jn 6,35-40).*

*Remember how for forty years now the Lord, your God, has directed all your journeying in the desert, so as to test you by affliction and find out whether or not it was your intention to keep his commandments. He therefore let you be afflicted with hunger, and then fed you with manna, a food unknown to you and your fathers, in order to show you that not by bread alone does man live, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of the Lord. The clothing did not fall from you in tatters, nor did your feet swell these forty years. So you must realize that the Lord, your God, disciplines you even as a man disciplines his son (Dt 8,2-5).*

It is urgent to distinguish between missionary and missionary. There is the mandate in the world to proclaim the Gospel, to make baptized disciples, to teach how the Gospel is to be lived in every word and there is the missionary who lives his life in the place where he is called to carry out his daily activity. While the former goes from place to place, city to city and village to village always sent and moved by the Holy Spirit, the latter goes in the same place from person to person, always under motion and inspiration of the Spirit of the Lord. For one and the other, everything must always be obedience to the Spirit of God. If one places himself outside the Spirit, he is no longer his missionaries, whom he has sent. In the mission there can be neither autonomy nor separation from the Spirit.

*When Jesus saw a crowd around him, he gave orders to cross to the other side. A scribe approached and said to him, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go." Jesus answered him, "Foxes have dens and birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to rest his head." Another of (his) disciples said to him, "Lord, let me go first and bury my father." But Jesus answered him, "Follow me, and let the dead bury their dead."*

Jesus is an honest person because he is true and he is true because he is honest. He has never deceived or deluded anyone. Do you want to follow the Master? Know that the Master is always in obedience to his Father. You want to follow him, but first you have to bury your father? Not even for you there might be sequel. From the moment of decision, the past no longer exists. There is only one present of obedience to every command of God.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints ensure that Christians become true missionaries of Christ Jesus.

## Lord, save us! We are perishing!

## Mt 8,23-27

### 2 JULY

When one walks with the Lord, one must always think from history and not from immediate feeling. History reveals to us that nothing is impossible to the Lord. Our God has accomplished ten great signs of his Almightiness in Egypt. Heaven and earth have knelt in obedience and listening. Is there anything impossible for the Lord? Another truth. If the Lord calls for a purpose and begins his work, might this work be interrupted in the middle because he is incapable of fulfilling it? Then the Lord would attest not to be the Lord. If God sends Moses to deliver his people, can his people be brought back to the Pharaoh in Egypt? If this happened, God would reveal Himself not God and the Pharaoh greater than God. In faith the right way to think is that: what does the lord want to show of Himself? Which almightiness of him does he want to reveal? The Holy Scripture is a perennial new revelation of both the Almightiness and of the eternal love with which God loves man. Moses said precisely this to the Lord so that He may decide to love the children of Israel regardless of their sin. If you let us die in the desert, the people would think that you are a useless God.

*When the messengers returned to Jacob, they said, "We reached your brother Esau. He is now coming to meet you, accompanied by four hundred men." Jacob was very much frightened. In his anxiety, he divided the people who were with him, as well as his flocks, herds and camels, into two camps. "If Esau should attack and overwhelm one camp," he reasoned, "the remaining camp may still survive." Then he prayed: "O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac! You told me, O LORD, 'Go back to the land of your birth, and I will be good to you.' I am unworthy of all the acts of kindness that you have loyally performed for your servant: although I crossed the Jordan here with nothing but my staff, I have now grown into two companies. Save me, I pray, from the hand of my brother Esau! Otherwise I fear that when he comes he will strike me down and slay the mothers and children. You yourself said, 'I will be very good to you, and I will make your descendants like the sands of the sea, which are too numerous to count.'" (Ex 32,7-13).*

Jesus is on the cross. What will the Lord want to attest of his almightiness and of his love? He does not deliver Jesus from the cross to reveal the almightiness of his grace. With it, one can live every suffering, every sorrow, every oppression, deprivation, poorness, unrighteousness. Jesus has been deprived of his garments and his body was nailed on the wood. He rises Him in the tomb to attest that his almightiness is capable to turn a mortal body, already in death, into a spiritual, glorious, incorruptible, immortal body. He can make the body light, as God is light. This is our wisdom in each of our cross: knowing that we do not still know our God according to fullness of truth. He comes and, in our life, through it, He reveals his almightiness of grace, truth, righteousness, holiness, mercy, love. After the revelation, faith is opened to other new revelations and thus the disciple of Jesus grows from faith into faith. He knows that his God is with him. He sees it.

*He got into a boat and his disciples followed him. Suddenly a violent storm came up on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by waves; but he was asleep. They came and woke him, saying,* *"Lord, save us!  We are perishing!" He said to them, "Why are you terrified, O you of little faith?" Then he got up, rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was great calm. The men were amazed and said, "What sort of man is this, whom even the winds and the sea obey?"*

The disciples are on the boat with Jesus. A strong wind rises. The see is rough. What does Christ Jesus want to reveal to them? They wake Him up and Jesus shows his Lordship over the wind and the sea. If they had not woken Him up, they would have seen other even mightier and stronger signs. They would have learnt that with Jesus, even if the wind and the sea are rough, the boat always remains unsinkable. This is faith.

Mother of God, Angels, Saints, make us disciples with most pure faith in Christ Jesus.

## We have seen the Lord

## Eph 2,19-22; Ps 116; Jn 20,24-29

### 3 JULY

Saint Paul reveals to the whole world that faith is born of listening. However, at the origin of the Word, there are always eyewitnesses. When are eyewitnesses worthy of faith? When the Word that they announce is transformed by them into their own lives. If they say "Blessed are the poor in spirit, because theirs is the kingdom of heaven", they are credible if they are presented visibly poor in spirit. If they say that Jesus is risen, they must witness in their body the signs of the resurrection of the Lord in a visible way.

*For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." But how can they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how can they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone to preach? And how can people preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring (the) good news!" But not everyone has heeded the good news; for Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what was heard from us?" Thus faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ (Rm 10,13-17). 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).*

Jesus appears to the disciples. Their sadness turned into joy. The Word of Jesus uttered in the Upper Room is fulfilled for them. Their face transmits truth. Their words, full of joy, testify that Jesus really resurrected. They were sad before.

*Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, "Are you discussing with one another what I said, 'A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me'? Amen, amen, I say to you, you will weep and mourn, while the world rejoices; you will grieve, but your grief will become joy. When a woman is in labour, she is in anguish because her hour has arrived; but when she has given birth to a child, she no longer remembers the pain because of her joy that a child has been born into the world. So you also are now in anguish. But I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away from you. On that day you will not question me about anything. Amen, amen, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in my name he will give you (Jn 16,19-23).*

Thomas lives a totally irrational and illogical procedure, devoid of any previous and earlier faith in the Word of Jesus. Moreover, he also lacks trust in his brothers Apostles. An apostle can also deceive, but ten converged, transformed apostles who show the resurrection in turn cannot deceive him. But he is obstinate. He will believe not only if he sees. His eyes could trick him. He will believe if he will see Jesus and touch him too. To believe he will want to put his finger in place of the nails and also put his hand in his side. These are conditions that can be given to one, but not to everyone. Jesus confirms that the way of faith is only for listening.

*Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nail marks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."*

Mother of God, Angels and Saints ensure that the disciples manifest Christ Jesus on their face.

## Why do you harbour evil thoughts?

## Gn 22,1-19; Ps 114; Mt 9,1-8

### 4 JULY

Jesus, saying to the paralytic: "Courage, son, your sins are forgiven", does nothing new or special. It performs a highly prophetic action. In fact all the prophets are great announcers of the Lord's forgiveness or of the invitation to repentance and conversion to have the forgiveness of sins. If for the ancient prophets it was not a blasphemy, why is for Jesus a profoundly prophetic action considered a blasphemy? Can a word be holy for one and blasphemy for others? David has sinned. He insulted the Lord. Nathan tells him: "Your sin is forgiven".

*The Lord sent Nathan to David, and when he came to him, he said: "Judge this case for me! In a certain town there were two men, one rich, the other poor. The rich man had flocks and herds in great numbers. But the poor man had nothing at all except one little ewe lamb that he had bought. He nourished her, and she grew up with him and his children. She shared the little food he had and drank from his cup and slept in his bosom. She was like a daughter to him. Now, the rich man received a visitor, but he would not take from his own flocks and herds to prepare a meal for the wayfarer who had come to him. Instead he took the poor man's ewe lamb and made a meal of it for his visitor." David grew very angry with that man and said to Nathan: "As the Lord lives, the man who has done this merits death! He shall restore the ewe lamb fourfold because he has done this and has had no pity." Then Nathan said to David: "You are the man! Thus says the Lord God of Israel: 'I anointed you king of Israel. I rescued you from the hand of Saul. I gave you your lord's house and your lord's wives for your own. I gave you the house of Israel and of Judah. And if this were not enough, I could count up for you still more. Why have you spurned the Lord and done evil in his sight? You have cut down Uriah the Hittite with the sword; you took his wife as your own, and him you killed with the sword of the Ammonites. Now, therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised me and have taken the wife of Uriah to be your wife.' Thus says the Lord: 'I will bring evil upon you out of your own house. I will take your wives while you live to see it, and will give them to your neighbour. He shall lie with your wives in broad daylight. You have done this deed in secret, but I will bring it about in the presence of all Israel, and with the sun looking down.'" Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord." Nathan answered David: "The Lord on his part has forgiven your sin: you shall not die. But since you have utterly spurned the Lord by this deed, the child born to you must surely die." Then Nathan returned to his house (2Sam 12,1-15).*

Blasphemy is not the fruit of a Word of Christ the Lord. It does not even stem from a misinterpretation of Ancient Scripture. The Word of Jesus is declared blasphemy by wicked hearts who think evil things. These scribes did not come with a pure heart to compare the Word of the Master with that of the Law, the Prophets and the Psalms. Instead, they are present to compare the Word heard with the evil one of their heart. Their bad heart says the Word of Jesus is bad. On the contrary, declares it blasphemy. If Jesus blasphemes, he can be stoned. It is enough that one begins to throw the stones and Jesus is done with. They have homicidal intentions.

*He entered a boat, made the crossing, and came into his own town. And there people brought to him a paralytic lying on a stretcher. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Courage, child, your sins are forgiven." At that, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." Jesus knew what they were thinking, and said, "Why do you harbour evil thoughts? Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"  - he then said to the paralytic, "Rise, pick up your stretcher, and go home." He rose and went home. When the crowds saw this they were struck with awe and glorified God who had given such authority to human beings.*

Jesus defends himself by attesting with the miracle that no man can blaspheme and at the same time speak in the name of God. Since healing is not a blasphemy, even the forgiveness of sins is not a blasphemy. When the heart is bad, the mind is bad. It loses all wisdom. It closes in its stubborn and murderous foolishness. Instead, the crowd present sees God in Christ Jesus and affirms it. It bears witness to the truth.

Mother of God, Angels, Saints, make us pure at heart. We want to see God where He works.

## Those who are well do not need a physician

## Gn 23,1-4.19; 24,1-8.62-67; Ps 105; Mt 9,9-13

### 5 JULY

Regardless of Jesus' actions, the Pharisees, lovers of God's holiness, should have known that, from the first sin in the Garden of Eden, it is God who always went in search of the sinner to invite him to conversion and return to his obedience. All the prophets are a perennial invitation, without interruption, addressed to the people of the covenant. Even the pagan nations are invited to conversion. An example in Holy Scriptures is Nineveh. The Lord sends Jonah to the city. He says only a very few words. A fast is called. All are converted. The city is spared. It is not destroyed. Our God is the God who awaits in view of repentance. Saint Peter reveals that God delays his coming because he wants everyone to be converted. He does not want anyone to be lost and for that is why he delays the end of the world.

*The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time: "Set out for the great city of Nineveh, and announce to it the message that I will tell you." So Jonah made ready and went to Nineveh, according to the Lord’s bidding. Now Nineveh was an enormously large city; it took three days to go through it. Jonah began his journey through the city, and had gone but a single day's walk announcing, "Forty days more and Nineveh shall be destroyed," when the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast and all of them, great and small, put on sackcloth. When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, laid aside his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in the ashes. Then he had this proclaimed throughout Nineveh, by decree of the king and his nobles: "Neither man nor beast, neither cattle nor sheep, shall taste anything; they shall not eat, nor shall they drink water. Man and beast shall be covered with sackcloth and call loudly to God; every man shall turn from his evil way and from the violence he has in hand. Who knows, God may relent and forgive, and withhold his blazing wrath, so that we shall not perish." When God saw by their actions how they turned from their evil way, he repented of the evil that he had threatened to do to them; he did not carry it out (Jon 3,1-10).*

*But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day. The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard "delay," but he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar and the elements will be dissolved by fire, and the earth and everything done on it will be found out. Since everything is to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought (you) to be, conducting yourselves in holiness and devotion, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved in flames and the elements melted by fire. But according to his promise we await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you await these things, be eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace. And consider the patience of our Lord as salvation, as our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, also wrote to you, speaking of these things as he does in all his letters. In them there are some things hard to understand that the ignorant and unstable distort to their own destruction, just as they do the other scriptures (2Pt 3,8-16).*

Knowing that any argumentation of a scriptural nature, would not have been understood, in the wisdom of the Holy Spirit, Jesus uses the image of the physician. As the doctor treats the sick and not the healthy, so he must cure sinners and not the righteous.

*As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the customs post. He said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. While he was at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat with Jesus and his disciples. The Pharisees saw this and said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" He heard this and said, "Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. Go and learn the meaning of the words, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."*

The Pharisees do not know mercy because they do not know God. Who knows God, knows his true mercy. What is God's mercy? Wanting and doing everything so that no sinner is lost. For salvation, the Father has given his Son.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints make us missionaries of the great mercy of our God.

## And both are preserved

## Mt 9,14-17

### 6 JULY

God has founded the relation of the children of Israel with Him on the foundation of his Law, of his Commandments. Instead, his people want to establish a relation made of human works with no reference to the Commandments. God does not love this religion and reveals it through the prophets. He wants the religion of the listening, of the obedience.

*Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Heap your holocausts upon your sacrifices; eat up the flesh! In speaking to your fathers on the day I brought them out of the land of Egypt, I gave them no command concerning holocaust or sacrifice. This rather is what I commanded them: Listen to my voice; then I will be your God and you shall be my people. Walk in all the ways that I command you, so that you may prosper. But they obeyed not, nor did they pay heed. They walked in the hardness of their evil hearts and turned their backs, not their faces, to me. From the day that your fathers left the land of Egypt even to this day, I have sent you untiringly all my servants the prophets. Yet they have not obeyed me nor paid heed; they have stiffened their necks and done worse than their fathers. When you speak all these words to them, they will not listen to you either; when you call to them, they will not answer you. Say to them: This is the nation which does not listen to the voice of the LORD, its God, or take correction. Faithfulness has disappeared; the word itself is banished from their speech. (Jer 7,21-28).*

*Hear, then, what the LORD says: Arise, present your plea before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice! Hear, O mountains, the plea of the LORD, pay attention, O foundations of the earth! For the LORD has a plea against his people, and he enters into trial with Israel. O my people, what have I done to you, or how have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, from the place of slavery I released you; And I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. My people, remember what Moab's King Balak planned, and how Balaam, the son of Beor, answered him . . . from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the just deeds of the LORD. With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow before God most high? Shall I come before him with holocausts, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with myriad streams of oil? Shall I give my first-born for my crime, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? You have been told, O man, what is good, and what the LORD requires of you: Only to do right and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God. Hark! the LORD cries to the city. (It is wisdom to fear your name!) Hear, O tribe and city council, You whose rich men are full of violence, whose inhabitants speak falsehood with deceitful tongues in their heads! (Mi 6,1-12).*

If the Lord does not want a religion of practice without obedience, for his religion is only that of the obedience to his Word, can Jesus patch an old cloak with a piece of a cloak declared unshrunken by his Father? Can He put the new wine of the true religion in a wineskin that has not been able to contain any Law of the Lord? The new cloak is his Word. The new wine is his Word, as well. If the obedience to his Word is the only foundation of the true religion, other things are useless. The fasting is to be brought both in the virtue of charity – one renounces something so that others may have something – and in the virtue of sobriety and of temperance. One renounces what is more, what is unnecessary, for it is harmful for our life. One gives it to the poor, in accordance with the Law of Jesus the Lord. New Word, new religion.

*Then the disciples of John approached him and said, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast (much), but your disciples do not fast?" Jesus answered them, "Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast. No one patches an old cloak with a piece of unshrunken cloth, for its fullness pulls away from the cloak and the tear gets worse. People do not put new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise the skins burst, the wine spills out, and the skins are ruined. Rather, they pour new wine into fresh wineskins,* *and both are preserved."*

When one lives the Word of Jesus in full obedience, one is in a daily fasting, for one gives the body only what is necessary. What is not closely needed to the body becomes a great instrument of mercy, alms, charity.

Mother of God, Angels, Saints, teach the people of God to live the true religion.

## Your peace will rest on him

## Is 66,10-14c; Ps 65; Gal 6,14-18; Lk 10,1-12.17-20

### 7 JULY

Christ Jesus, his body and the Christian are peace and the sacrament of peace. If Christ is excluded, Peace is excluded. If the Church is excluded, peace is excluded. If the Christian is excluded, peace is excluded. The Father constituted Christ Jesus his peace. Christ Jesus constituted his Church his peace. The Church constitutes her every son her peace. The Church draws peace from Christ, the Christian from the Church.

*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; Upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone. For a child is born to us, a son is given us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counsellor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace. His dominion is vast and forever peaceful, From David's throne, and over his kingdom, which he confirms and sustains By judgment and justice, both now and forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this! (Is 9,1-6).*

*But you, Bethlehem-Ephrathah too small to be among the clans of Judah, From you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel; Whose origin is from of old, from ancient times. (Therefore the Lord will give them up, until the time when she who is to give birth has borne, And the rest of his brethren shall return to the children of Israel.) He shall stand firm and shepherd his flock by the strength of the Lord, in the majestic name of the Lord, his God; And they shall remain, for now his greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth; he shall be peace (Mi 5,1-4).* *Rejoice heartily, O daughter Zion, shout for joy, O daughter Jerusalem! See, your king shall come to you; a just saviour is he, Meek, and riding on an ass, on a colt, the foal of an ass. He shall banish the chariot from Ephraim, and the horse from Jerusalem; The warrior's bow shall be banished, and he shall proclaim peace to the nations. His dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth (Zec 9,9-10).*

*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid. You heard me tell you, 'I am going away and I will come back to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father; for the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it happens, so that when it happens you may believe. I will no longer speak much with you, for the ruler of the world is coming. He has no power over me, but the world must know that I love the Father and that I do just as the Father has commanded me. Get up, let us go (Jn 14,27-31).*

Christ brings peace to our earth by reconciling humanity with his Father, in the Holy Spirit. The Church has been entrusted with the ministry of reconciliation with the proclamation of the Gospel and with the celebration of the sacraments. Every Christian who lives as a reconciled person with God, in Christ, by the work of the Holy Spirit becomes an instrument of reconciliation towards every man. Who does not want Christ, does not want the Church, does not want the Christian, he does not want reconciliation. The Christian recovers his peace and goes elsewhere.

*After this the Lord appointed seventy (-two) others whom he sent ahead of him in pairs to every town and place he intended to visit. He said to them, "The harvest is abundant but the labourers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out labourers for his harvest. Go on your way; behold, I am sending you like lambs among wolves. Carry no money bag, no sack, no sandals; and greet no one along the way. Into whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this household.' If a peaceful person lives there, your peace will rest on him; but if not, it will return to you. Stay in the same house and eat and drink what is offered to you, for the labourer deserves his payment. Do not move about from one house to another. Whatever town you enter and they welcome you, eat what is set before you, cure the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God is at hand for you.' Whatever town you enter and they do not receive you, go out into the streets and say, 'The dust of your town that clings to our feet, even that we shake off against you.' Yet know this: the kingdom of God is at hand. I tell you, it will be more tolerable for Sodom on that day than for that town. The seventy (-two) returned rejoicing, and said, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us because of your name." Jesus said, "I have observed Satan fall like lightning from the sky. Behold, I have given you the power 'to tread upon serpents' and scorpions and upon the full force of the enemy and nothing will harm you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice because the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice because your names are written in heaven."*

It is a great mistake to think that peace can exist without the reception of Jesus.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, ensure that the Christian feels the mission of peace in Christ.

## Jesus rose and followed him, and so did his disciples

## Gn 28,10-22a; Ps 90; Mt 9,18-26

### 8 JULY

The man that goes to Jesus believes that He can raise his daughter back and for this he makes him a very clear and explicit request: "My daughter died right now, but come, lay your hand on her and she will live". This man transforms faith into prayer. He is sure that Jesus can and that is why he asks for help. Jesus accepts the invitation. He sets on the way towards the house of this man with his disciples. Faith is a very pure relationship with the truth of God and of every person of God, to whom the Lord confers his powers. Therefore, faith also becomes a relationship with our truth. If we are members of the body of Christ and participate in the powers of Christ, each according to modalities established by the Holy Spirit, we lack in any faith if we do not believe and do not confess our truth in our works. Today this is the Christian evil. It is not believed that the truth of God is the truth of Christ Jesus, that the truth of Christ Jesus is the truth of the Church, that the truth of the Church is the truth of each one of her children. Each of her children does not believe in the truth that comes to him from the sacrament received and that enables him to perform specific, particular and personal works.

Without the faith of Christ in the Father, there is no true faith in the Father. Without the faith of the Church in Christ, there is no true faith in Christ. Without the true faith of the Christian in the Church, there is no true faith in the Church. By not showing the Christian the truth of his faith to the world, it remains devoid of true faith in the Christian, in the Church and in Christ, in the world. Jesus, the person with a very pure faith in the truth, gets up with his disciples and sets out. Along the way, a woman, with the very pure faith in Christ, approaches him, touches the hem of his cloak and heals from her incurable disease. Jesus wants everyone to know the truth of the woman's faith. It can be of help to every other man and every other woman. The faith of this woman gives a new truth to Christ the Lord. You can even not ask with your mouth. It is enough that Jesus be touched with faith. We receive Jesus in the Eucharist. We receive him without faith and the incurable disease of our sin remains forever in our soul, in our spirit and in our body. Instead, if we touched Jesus according to the truth of the most pure faith, we would also be freed from the most persistent and most incurable evils. The woman teaches us that each of us should offer the world a new truth of Lord Jesus. His truth is infinite, eternal, divine and human. Believing in Christ in a new way and pointing him out to the whole world could help every man to discover how much he too is in need of Christ Jesus. In the Holy Spirit this can also be done. Indeed, it must be done.

*While he was saying these things to them, an official came forward, knelt down before him, and said, "My daughter has just died. But come, lay your hand on her, and she will live." Jesus rose and followed him, and so did his disciples. A woman suffering haemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the tassel on his cloak. She said to herself, "If only I can touch his cloak, I shall be cured." Jesus turned around and saw her, and said, "Courage, daughter! Your faith has saved you." And from that hour the woman was cured. When Jesus arrived at the official's house and saw the flute players and the crowd who were making a commotion, he said, "Go away! The girl is not dead but sleeping." And they ridiculed him. When the crowd was put out, he came and took her by the hand, and the little girl arose. And news of this spread throughout all that land.*

Jesus arrives into the house of the chief and sees the flutists and the crowd in agitation. He sends everyone away, saying that the girl is not dead, but she is sleeping. For this affirmation Jesus is mocked. It is thought that he does not distinguish a person that sleeps from someone that has died. The crowd is sent away. He enters, takes the hand of the girl and she gets up. For Jesus, death is not definitive. It is a moment of our existence. In the end, when he comes for the final judgment, he will call everyone from the tombs and will resuscitate us. But the Resurrection will not be the same for everyone. For those who did good, it will be of glory. For those who have done wrong, it will be condemnatory. Today it is this truth that has failed to the faith of the Christian. A faith without this truth is useless because one no longer works in view of the blessed and glorious resurrection. He abandons himself to sin and to every transgression.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints arrange that the Christian's faith is perfect in every truth.

## He drives out demons by the prince of demons

## Gn 32,23-33; Ps 16; Mt 9,32-38

### 9 JULY

The word reveals the heart. The crowd with a simple heart sees Jesus that frees a deaf-mute with an unclean spirit; it is taken by amazement and confesses that there had never been seen such a thing in Israel. Never means from the time of Abraham up to the present. The Pharisees, with the impure heart, rotting for the evil that dwells in it, accuse Jesus of acting in the name of Beelzebùl, who is the prince of the demons. God, the Son of God, that came into the flesh to free man from the slavery of Satan and all his lies, would have made himself a slave to the lord of darkness and falsehood for an ephemeral worldly glory. Truly the word reveals the rottenness of the heart. It really speaks sin on their mouth. When this happens it is a sign that the limit of evil has been surpassed.

*When a sieve is shaken, the husks appear; so do a man's faults when he speaks. As the test of what the potter moulds is in the furnace, so in his conversation is the test of a man. The fruit of a tree shows the care it has had; so too does a man's speech disclose the bent of his mind. Praise no man before he speaks, for it is then that men are tested (Sir 27,4-7). Transgression speaks to the ungodly within his heart; There is no fear of God before his eyes.**For it flatters him in his own eyes Concerning the discovery of his iniquity and the hatred of it.**The words of his mouth are wickedness and deceit; He has ceased to be wise and to do good.**He plans wickedness upon his bed; He sets himself on a path that is not good; He does not despise evil.**Your loving-kindness, O Lord, extends to the heavens, Your faithfulness reaches to the skies.**Your righteousness is like the mountains of God; Your judgments are like a great deep. O Lord, You preserve man and beast.**How precious is Your loving-kindness, O God! And the children of men take refuge in the shadow of Your wings.**They drink their fill of the abundance of Your house; And You give them to drink of the river of Your delights.**For with You is the fountain of life; In Your light we see light.**O continue Your loving-kindness to those who know You, And Your righteousness to the upright in heart.**Let not the foot of pride come upon me, And let not the hand of the wicked drive me away.**There the doers of iniquity have fallen; They have been thrust down and cannot rise (Ps 36 (35) 1-13).*

If the Lord were not protected and guarded by his Father from these slanders, he would have been condemned even before completing his mission. The truth sung by Sirach on the custody of the Righteous by God is above all for Jesus.

*I give you thanks, O God of my father; I praise you, O God my saviour! I will make known your name, refuge of my life; you have been my helper against my adversaries. You have saved me from death, and kept back my body from the pit, From the clutches of the nether world you have snatched my feet; you have delivered me, in your great mercy From the scourge of a slanderous tongue, and from lips that went over to falsehood; From the snare of those who watched for my downfall, and from the power of those who sought my life; From many a danger you have saved me, from flames that hemmed me in on every side; From the midst of unremitting fire, From the deep belly of the nether world; From deceiving lips and painters of lies, from the arrows of dishonest tongues. I was at the point of death, my soul was nearing the depths of the nether world; I turned every way, but there was no one to help me, I looked for one to sustain me, but could find no one. But then I remembered the mercies of the Lord, his kindness through ages past; For he saves those who take refuge in him, and rescues them from every evil (Sir 51,1-8).*

This time Jesus leaves the Pharisees and goes elsewhere. Crowds need his miracles and his Word. They are flocks like sheep without a shepherd, abandoned to themselves. But can He teach, cure and heal the whole world? He cannot. This is why he asks his disciples to pray to the Father to send workers to his harvest. This prayer must always be raised from the heart of every disciple of Jesus. But in order to do so one must have the same eyes of Christ and his very heart.

*As they were going out, a demoniac who could not speak was brought to him, and when the demon was driven out the mute person spoke. The crowds were amazed and said, "Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel." But the Pharisees said, "He drives out demons by the prince of demons." Jesus went around to all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and curing every disease and illness. At the sight of the crowds, his heart was moved with pity for them because they were troubled and abandoned, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is abundant but the labourers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out labourers for his harvest."*

Mother of God, Angels and Saints ensure that every Christian prays to the Father with perseverance.

## The kingdom of heaven is at hand

## Gn 41,55-57; 42,5-7a.17-24a; Ps 32; Mt 10,1-7

### 10 JULY

Let us read some ancient prophecies. Time flows, but they are slow to complete. It is as if the days were always distant from the good promises and oaths of God.

*Then the Lord God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, you shall be banned from all the animals and from all the wild creatures; On your belly shall you crawl, and dirt shall you eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; He will strike at your head, while you strike at his heel" (Gen 3,14-15). The Lord said to Abram: "Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk and from your father's house to a land that I will show you. "I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you. All the communities of the earth shall find blessing in you" (Gen 12,1-3).*

*Again the Lord’s messenger called to Abraham from heaven and said: "I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you acted as you did in not withholding from me your beloved son, I will bless you abundantly and make your descendants as countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore; your descendants shall take possession of the gates of their enemies, and in your descendants all the nations of the earth shall find blessing - all this because you obeyed my command'' (Gen 22,15-18).* *"You, Judah, shall your brothers praise  - your hand on the neck of your enemies; the sons of your father shall bow down to you. Judah, like a lion's whelp, you have grown up on prey, my son. He crouches like a lion recumbent, the king of beasts - who would dare rouse him? The sceptre shall never depart from Judah, or the mace from between his legs, While tribute is brought to him, and he receives the people's homage. He tethers his donkey to the vine, his purebred ass to the choicest stem. In wine he washes his garments his robe in the blood of grapes. His eyes are darker than wine, and his teeth are whiter than milk (Gen 49,8-12).*

The Letter to the Hebrews, after having recalled all the historical stages in which the Lord's promise has come to our times and has found full realization, tells us a truth that deserves we place in our hearts. Others were waiting. We possess.

*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 11,36-40).*

Announcing that the kingdom of heaven is near has only one meaning: all the words of God are by now nearing their fulfilment. Only the enthronement of the king is missing, but this will happen on Golgotha in a few ​​days. On the cross the inscription declares it solemnly: "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews". If there is the enthroned King, there is also the Kingdom. With the death of Christ it is not only near, it is in the world. In it one enters with conversion and faith in the Gospel. The Kingdom is announced and people are invited to enter it.

*Then he summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits to drive them out and to cure every disease and every illness. The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon called Peter, and his brother Andrew; James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew, Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James, the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddeus; Simon the Cananean, and Judas Iscariot who betrayed him. Jesus sent out these twelve after instructing them thus, "Do not go into pagan territory or enter a Samaritan town. Go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, make this proclamation: 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'*

Still today, Christ Jesus is on the cross, on his throne, with the inscription that declares him not only the King of the Jews, but the King of heaven and earth, of time and of eternity. But Christians are ashamed to announce Him, Jesus, the King of every man. The shame is so great as to make them declare that both the King and the Gospel and the Kingdom are no longer needed for salvation. Never in history has it come to such shame toward Jesus.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints ensure that Christians preach the kingdom of God with fortitude.

 **JULY 2019**

***SECOND DECADE OF JULY***

## What will there be for us?

## Pr 2,1-9; Ps 33; Mt 19,27-29

### 11 JULY

It is sufficient to take a look at God's promises in material and spiritual goods to those who observe the Law of Sinai, or pay attention to some blessing of the father to his son, and we will know immediately that Peter's question to Jesus Christ is out of place. The Father has always given all abundance to his faithful.

*Again he asked him, "Are you really my son Esau?" "Certainly," he replied. Then Isaac said, "Serve me your game, son, that I may eat of it and then give you my blessing." Jacob served it to him, and Isaac ate; he brought him wine, and he drank. Finally his father Isaac said to him, "Come closer, son, and kiss me." As Jacob went up and kissed him, Isaac smelled the fragrance of his clothes. With that, he blessed him, saying, "Ah, the fragrance of my son is like the fragrance of a field that the Lord has blessed! "May God give to you of the dew of the heavens And of the fertility of the earth abundance of grain and wine. "Let peoples serve you, and nations pay you homage; Be master of your brothers, and may your mother's sons bow down to you. Cursed be those who curse you, and blessed be those who bless you" (Gen 27,24-29).*

*Unless the Lord builds the house, They labour in vain who build it; Unless the Lord guards the city, The watchman keeps awake in vain.**It is vain for you to rise up early, To retire late, To eat the bread of painful labours; For He gives to His beloved even in his sleep.**Behold, children are a gift of the Lord, The fruit of the womb is a reward.**Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one’s youth.**How blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them; They will not be ashamed When they speak with their enemies in the gate (Ps 127 (126) 1-5).*

*For those blessed by Him will inherit the land, But those cursed by Him will be cut off.**The steps of a man are established by the Lord, And He delights in his way.**When he falls, he will not be hurled headlong, Because the Lord is the One who holds his hand.**I have been young and now I am old, Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken Or his descendants begging bread.**All day long he is gracious and lends, And his descendants are a blessing.**Depart from evil and do good, So you will abide forever.**For the Lord loves justice And does not forsake His godly ones; They are preserved forever, But the descendants of the wicked will be cut off.**The righteous will inherit the land And dwell in it forever (Ps 37 (36) 22-29).*

*"If you live in accordance with my precepts and are careful to observe my commandments, I will give you rain in due season, so that the land will bear its crops, and the trees their fruit; your threshing will last till vintage time, and your vintage till the time for sowing, and you will have food to eat in abundance, so that you may dwell securely in your land. I will establish peace in the land, that you may lie down to rest without anxiety. I will rid the country of ravenous beasts, and keep the sword of war from sweeping across your land. You will rout your enemies and lay them low with your sword. Five of you will put a hundred of your foes to flight, and a hundred of you will chase ten thousand of them, till they are cut down by your sword. I will look with favour upon you, and make you fruitful and numerous, as I carry out my covenant with you. So much of the old crops will you have stored up for food that you will have to discard them to make room for the new. I will set my Dwelling among you, and will not disdain you. Ever present in your midst, I will be your God, and you will be my people; for it is I, the Lord, your God, who brought you out of the land of the Egyptians and freed you from their slavery, breaking the yoke they had laid upon you and letting you walk erect (Lev 26,3-13).*

If Jesus promises the reward of the righteous and the prophet to the one who gives only a glass of fresh water to one of his envoys, what will the Father not give to those who have sacrificed their lives for the cause of the Gospel? The reward will be exceedingly great and eternal.

*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.*

Let who consecrates his life entirely for the service of the kingdom of God and of the Gospel, know that God will consecrate himself to him. Consecration for consecration. God consecrates himself with his omnipotence of grace, truth, mercy, justice, light and peace.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, renew in the disciples the spirit of true consecration.

## When they persecute you in one town

## Gn 46,1-7.28-30; Ps 36; Mt 10,16-23

### 12 JULY

The disciple of Jesus is sent into the world to build up the kingdom of God, which is accomplished in the body of Christ, which is his Church founded on Peter, on the Apostles and on the Prophets, according to the teaching of the Holy Spirit contained in the prophetic Scriptures.

*And he gave some as apostles, others as prophets, others as evangelists, others as pastors and teachers, to equip the holy ones for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of faith and knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the extent of the full stature of Christ, so that we may no longer be infants, tossed by waves and swept along by every wind of teaching arising from human trickery, from their cunning in the interests of deceitful scheming. Rather, living the truth in love, we should grow in every way into him who is the head, Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, with the proper functioning of each part, brings about the body's growth and builds itself up in love (Eph 4,11-16).*

*There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit. To one is given through the Spirit the expression of wisdom; to another the expression of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit; to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit; to another mighty deeds; to another prophecy; to another discernment of spirits; to another varieties of tongues; to another interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit produces all of these, distributing them individually to each person as he wishes.  Now you are Christ's body, and individually parts of it. Some people God has designated in the church to be, first, apostles; second, prophets; third, teachers; then, mighty deeds; then, gifts of healing, assistance, administration, and varieties of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work mighty deeds? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? (Cf. 1Cor 12,1.31).*

If the goal is the building up of Christ's body, it is accomplished through five actions that oblige every missionary of Jesus: going to every people, proclaiming the Gospel, making disciples, baptizing in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching believers how to live the Gospel. If this is the essential, fundamental and primary purpose, the testimony with the blood is a means, just as the prison, beatings, slander and every other evil of the world towards the missionaries are means. As far as depends on the disciple, these means must be avoided. Even the spillage of blood must be avoided. It must be the world that decides it and not him. This is why Jesus asks his followers to leave the places of persecution and go to other cities. Escape is necessary for the construction of Christ’s body. If then one is obliged to death, he offers it to Jesus, but always so that his kingdom can be built. The kingdom is our only end.

*"Behold, I am sending you like sheep in the midst of wolves; so be shrewd as serpents and simple as doves. But beware of people, for they will hand you over to courts and scourge you in their synagogues, and you will be led before governors and kings for my sake as a witness before them and the pagans. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say. You will be given at that moment what you are to say. For it will not be you who speak but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will hand over brother to death, and the father his child; children will rise up against parents and have them put to death. You will be hated by all because of my name, but whoever endures to the end will be saved. When they persecute you in one town, flee to another. Amen, I say to you, you will not finish the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.*

Everything that the disciple of Jesus does in words and deeds must be aimed at building up the body of Christ. If the body is not built, our missionary activity is vain. The fruit is the body of Christ. We do not produce this body, we are sterile trees. It is not necessary to shed blood for Jesus if his body is not built.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints arrange that every Christian builds the body of Christ in the world.

## Everyone who acknowledges me before others

## Gn 49,29-33; 50,15-24; Ps 102; Mt 10,24-33

### 13 JULY

Jesus asks each of his disciples to recognize him before the world, to be recognized by him before his Father, today and for eternity. But what does recognizing Christ before men mean? It means to publicly attest the truth of Jesus in the same way that He attested to the truth of his Father. As Jesus always affirms that He is from the Father and lives to fulfil his will, so the disciple must confess that He is from Christ and lives to fulfil the will of Christ.

*Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes in the one who sent me has eternal life and will not come to condemnation, but has passed from death to life. Amen, amen, I say to you, the hour is coming and is now here when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For just as the Father has life in himself, so also he gave to his Son the possession of life in himself. And he gave him power to exercise judgment, because he is the Son of Man. Do not be amazed at this, because the hour is coming in which all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and will come out, those who have done good deeds to the resurrection of life, but those who have done wicked deeds to the resurrection of condemnation. "I cannot do anything on my own; I judge as I hear, and my judgment is just, because I do not seek my own will but the will of the one who sent me.*

*"If I testify on my own behalf, my testimony cannot be verified. But there is another who testifies on my behalf, and I know that the testimony he gives on my behalf is true. You sent emissaries to John, and he testified to the truth. I do not accept testimony from a human being, but I say this so that you may be saved. He was a burning and shining lamp, and for a while you were content to rejoice in his light. But I have testimony greater than John's. The works that the Father gave me to accomplish, these works that I perform testify on my behalf that the Father has sent me. Moreover, the Father who sent me has testified on my behalf. But you have never heard his voice nor seen his form, and you do not have his word remaining in you, because you do not believe in the one whom he has sent. You search the scriptures, because you think you have eternal life through them; even they testify on my behalf. But you do not want to come to me to have life (Jn 5,24-40).*

The disciple, like Jesus, must not only confess that he is from Christ, but also that he lives in Christ, with Christ and through Christ. He will do this if he does the works of Christ, as Christ did the works of the Father. The works are the perfect obedience to every Word of Jesus. Jesus brought to fulfilment the Word of the Father. The Christian completes the Word of Jesus. Without perfect obedience to the Word, Jesus is not confessed and neither will He confess us before his Father. But if He does not know us before God, for us the gates of Paradise will not open forever.

*No disciple is above his teacher, no slave above his master. It is enough for the disciple that he become like his teacher, for the slave that he become like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more those of his household! "Therefore do not be afraid of them. Nothing is concealed that will not be revealed, nor secret that will not be known. What I say to you in the darkness, speak in the light; what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna. Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father's knowledge. Even all the hairs of your head are counted. So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father. But whoever denies me before others, I will deny before my heavenly Father.*

Just as Jesus confessed his Father to death on the cross, the disciple must also confess Jesus to death on the cross. The life of the Master was a total gift to the Father. The life of the disciple will be a total gift to Christ. All Christ is of the Father. The whole disciple is of Christ. It is the only way of true confession of Christ in the world.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints arrange that every Christian recognizes Jesus before men.

## The one who treated him with mercy

## Dt 30,10-14; Ps 68; Col 1,15-20; Lk 10,25-37

### 14 JULY

The Church lives the love of the neighbour according to three specific modalities. The first is that of the proclamation of the Gospel to every creature. Every disciple of Jesus, according to the sacrament received and in relation to the charismas of the Holy Spirit, is obliged to proclaim the Gospel to every creature. Everyone must feel obliged to form the body of Christ. This is universal, primary, fundamental, essential and irreplaceable charity. If this first charity is not lived, the others are vain. Then there is organized charity. Being the body of Christ composed of many members, each member must live his personal charity. Organizing charity is the obligation of pastors. If charity is not organized, one will always live in disorder, confusion and injustice.

*At that time, as the number of disciples continued to grow, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. So the Twelve called together the community of the disciples and said, "It is not right for us to neglect the word of God to serve at table. Brothers, select from among you seven reputable men, filled with the Spirit and wisdom, whom we shall appoint to this task, whereas we shall devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word" (At 6,1-4).*

*Honour widows who are truly widows. But if a widow has children or grandchildren, let these first learn to perform their religious duty to their own family and to make recompense to their parents, for this is pleasing to God. The real widow, who is all alone, has set her hope on God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day. But the one who is self-indulgent is dead while she lives. Command this, so that they may be irreproachable. And whoever does not provide for relatives and especially family members has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. Let a widow be enrolled if she is not less than sixty years old, married only once, with a reputation for good works, namely, that she has raised children, practiced hospitality, washed the feet of the holy ones, helped those in distress, involved herself in every good work. But exclude younger widows, for when their sensuality estranges them from Christ, they want to marry and will incur condemnation for breaking their first pledge. And furthermore, they learn to be idlers, going about from house to house, and not only idlers but gossips and busybodies as well, talking about things that ought not to be mentioned. So I would like younger widows to marry, have children, and manage a home, so as to give the adversary no pretext for maligning us. For some have already turned away to follow Satan. If any woman believer*[*2*](http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0839/__P113.HTM#$4QV)*has widowed relatives, she must assist them; the church is not to be burdened, so that it will be able to help those who are truly widows (1Tm 5,3-16).*

Faced with a work of charity that demands our immediacy, no rule, either human or divine, has value. First the immediate, impelling charity is accomplished. Then the former journey is resumed. The three modalities obligate every man. Even priests and Levites, bishops, popes, presbyters and lay faithful. Organizing charity is an obligation.

*There was a scholar of the law who stood up to test him and said, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read it?" He said in reply, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself." He replied to him, "You have answered correctly; do this and you will live." But because he wished to justify himself, he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbour?" Jesus replied, "A man fell victim to robbers as he went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. They stripped and beat him and went off leaving him half-dead. A priest happened to be going down that road, but when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. Likewise a Levite came to the place, and when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. But a Samaritan traveller who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight. He approached the victim, poured oil and wine over his wounds and bandaged them. Then he lifted him up on his own animal, took him to an inn and cared for him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper with the instruction, 'Take care of him. If you spend more than what I have given you, I shall repay you on my way back.' Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbour to the robbers' victim?" He answered, "The one who treated him with mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."*

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, help us to live charity according to the laws of charity.

## One's enemies will be those of his household

## Ex 1,8-14.22; Ps 123; Mt 10,34-11,1

### 15 JULY

Jesus reminds his disciples that the world lies under the power of corruption and death. If we do not let ourselves be saved by him, if we do not enter his Gospel and if we do not obey his Word, there is no liberation from the power of evil. Only Jesus Christ frees from evil and one lives free only if he abides in him. He abides in him if he stays in his Word, without ever leaving it. The prophecy of Micah, which Jesus makes his own, reveals to us the universality of evil. Only the Lord can be trusted and nobody else. Those who are not fearful of God do not know the limits of evil and abandon themselves to it. There are moments in history where it seems that Satan is the one and only ruler of hearts.

*Alas! I am as when the fruit is gathered, as when the vines have been gleaned; There is no cluster to eat, no early fig that I crave. The faithful are gone from the earth, among men the upright are no more! They all lie in wait to shed blood, each one ensnares the other. Their hands succeed at evil; the prince makes demands, The judge is had for a price, The great man speaks as he pleases, The best of them is like a brier, the most upright like a thorn hedge. The day announced by your watchmen! your punishment has come; now is the time of your confusion. Put no trust in a friend, have no confidence in a companion; Against her who lies in your bosom guard the portals of your mouth. For the son dishonours his father, the daughter rises up against her mother, The daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law, and a man's enemies are those of his household. But as for me, I will look to the Lord, I will put my trust in God my saviour; my God will hear me! (Mi 7,1-7).*

Who are the first to not believe in Christ the Lord? His relatives. Who are the declared enemies of Jesus who want his death at any cost? Those of his house, those of his people. They are scribes, Pharisees, Sadducees, Herodians, chief priests and elders of the people. Who condemned Jesus to death? The high priest, the highest authority existing in the people of God. He condemned him in the name of God, of whom he was a servant. He condemned his God in the name of the God he served. This is the power of darkness.

*After this, Jesus moved about within Galilee; but he did not wish to travel in Judea, because the Jews were trying to kill him. So his brothers said to him, "Leave here and go to Judea, so that your disciples also may see the works you are doing. No one works in secret if he wants to be known publicly. If you do these things, manifest yourself to the world." For his brothers did not believe in him (Cf. Jn 7,1-10). So the chief priests and the Pharisees convened the Sanhedrin and said, "What are we going to do? This man is performing many signs. If we leave him alone, all will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our land and our nation." But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing, nor do you consider that it is better for you that one man should die instead of the people, so that the whole nation may not perish." So from that day on they planned to kill him (Cf. Jn 11,47-53).*

The disciple must always act with the utmost prudence. Every man, even a very close family member, could turn out to be his enemy, one that could prevent him from announcing the kingdom with betrayal and condemnation to death. It is a witnessed truth. Let who does good to the missionaries of Jesus, know that he will not lose his reward. Never.

*"Do not think that I have come to bring peace upon the earth. I have come to bring not peace but the sword. For I have come to set a man 'against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and one's enemies will be those of his household.' "Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. "Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me. Whoever receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever receives a righteous man because he is righteous will receive a righteous man's reward. And whoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink because he is a disciple - amen, I say to you, he will surely not lose his reward." When Jesus finished giving these commands to his twelve disciples,  he went away from that place to teach and to preach in their towns.*

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, make us prudent, wise, intelligent on the model of Jesus.

## You will go down to the netherworld

## Ex 2,1-15a; Ps 68; Mt 11,20-24

### 16 JULY

Every miracle is the grace of the Lord given to help so that man believes that Jesus is the true one sent by God, that his Word is the true Word of God and is converted to it to enter into eternal life. Instead, Corazìn, Betsàida and Capernaum have been closed in their pride. They rejected conversion. But they have sought and obtained miracles from the Christ of God. Being every miracle a grace aimed at true faith and true conversion, of the refused grace one is eternally accountable to God. By closing in their pride, these cities will hurled down into the abyss of perdition. The prophecy of Isaiah, reported by Lord Jesus, testifies it in an infallibly true way.

*How the oppressor has reached his end! how the turmoil is stilled! The LORD has broken the rod of the wicked, the staff of the tyrants That struck the peoples in wrath relentless blows; That beat down the nations in anger, with oppression unchecked. The whole earth rests peacefully, song breaks forth; The very cypresses rejoice over you, and the cedars of Lebanon: "Now that you are laid to rest, there will be none to cut us down." The nether world below is all astir preparing for your coming; It awakens the shades to greet you, all the leaders of the earth; It has the kings of all nations rise from their thrones. All of them speak out and say to you, "You too have become weak like us, you are the same as we. Down to the nether world your pomp is brought, the music of your harps. The couch beneath you is the maggot, your covering, the worm." How have you fallen from the heavens, O morning star, son of the dawn! How are you cut down to the ground, you who mowed down the nations! You said in your heart: "I will scale the heavens; Above the stars of God I will set up my throne; I will take my seat on the Mount of Assembly, in the recesses of the North. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will be like the Most High!" Yet down to the nether world you go to the recesses of the pit! (Is 14, 4-15).*

*When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison. He will go out to deceive the nations at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea. They invaded the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the holy ones and the beloved city. But fire came down from heaven and consumed them. The Devil who had led them astray was thrown into the pool of fire and sulphur, where the beast and the false prophet were. There they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. Next I saw a large white throne and the one who was sitting on it. The earth and the sky fled from his presence and there was no place for them. I saw the dead, the great and the lowly, standing before the throne, and scrolls were opened. Then another scroll was opened, the book of life. The dead were judged according to their deeds, by what was written in the scrolls. The sea gave up its dead; then Death and Hades gave up their dead. All the dead were judged according to their deeds. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the pool of fire. (This pool of fire is the second death. Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the pool of fire (Rev 20,7-15).*

By cutting every bridge with grace, truth and justice according to God, pride always leads man into darkness and eternal perdition. Today we must affirm that pride is not only elevating man up to heaven, it has also made him be declared God above all the universe created by the Lord. Since pride is very high, the fall will also be very ruinous. When it happens, noise will be heard from the most distant galaxies. It will be so deafening that all the stars will tremble.

*Then he began to reproach the towns where most of his mighty deeds had been done, since they had not repented. "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty deeds done in your midst had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would long ago have repented in sackcloth and ashes. But I tell you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you. And as for you, Capernaum: 'Will you be exalted to heaven? You will go down to the netherworld.' For if the mighty deeds done in your midst had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom on the day of judgment than for you."*

There is only one way to avoid plunging into the infernal abysses: being clothed with humility and believing that Jesus is the true Christ of God and his Word is of true eternal life for us.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, fill us with all humility. We will welcome the Word of Jesus.

## And no one knows the Father except the Son

## Ex 3,1-6.9-12; Ps 102; Mt 11,25-27

### 17 JULY

These words of Jesus should be engraved on every stone of our churches and on the doorposts of every door of the houses where the disciples of Jesus dwell. The commandment given by God to the children of Israel is worth much more for all the Christians who are in world.

*"These then are the commandments, the statutes and decrees which the Lord, your God, has ordered that you be taught to observe in the land into which you are crossing for conquest, so that you and your son and your grandson may fear the Lord, your God, and keep, throughout the days of your lives, all his statutes and commandments which I enjoin on you, and thus have long life. Hear then, Israel, and be careful to observe them, that you may grow and prosper the more, in keeping with the promise of the Lord, the God of your fathers, to give you a land flowing with milk and honey. "Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone! Therefore, you shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength. Take to heart these words which I enjoin on you today. Drill them into your children. Speak of them at home and abroad, whether you are busy or at rest. Bind them at your wrist as a sign and let them be as a pendant on your forehead. Write them on the doorposts of your houses and on your gates (Dt 6,1-9).*

Today it is a time of great temptation for the disciples of Jesus. Satan has decided to decapitate the faith, depriving it of its head and its heart, which are Christ Jesus, in his eternal, divine and human truth, of only Redeemer and Saviour of the human race and his Word, as the one and only Word in which there is truth and life, light and holiness and the justice and peace of every man. Being a Christian today without his supernatural head and his divine and eternal heart, the whole world for his fall is condemned to darkness. Everything is from the true faith of the Christian in Christ and in his Word. If the Christian falls from the true faith, with him he drags the whole world into falsehood and lies not only with regard to God, but also to man, to all creation, in time and eternity. Every Christian crisis is a crisis in the world. Every Christian elevation is the elevation of the world. Every victory of the Christian is victory for the world. Every Christian fall is the fall of the world into increasingly dense darkness. Jesus puts this truth at the heart of the Sermon on the Mount. The Christian is constituted the light of the world and salt of the earth. He loses the light and the wisdom, the whole world remains without light and without wisdom. Christ is the light and wisdom of the world.

*"The lamp of the body is the eye. If your eye is sound, your whole body will be filled with light; but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be in darkness. And if the light in you is darkness, how great will the darkness be (Mt 6,22-23). "You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lamp stand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father (Mt 5,13-16).*

We can paraphrase the truth proclaimed by Jesus with these words: "No one knows the Christian except Christ and no one knows Christ except the Christian and he to whom the Christian reveals him". Whom must the Christian reveal Christ to? To the whole world.

*At that time Jesus said in reply, "I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him.*

The Christian is not responsible only for his soul, but for the soul of every man who comes into this world. If he loves Christ, he will also love the truth of Christ, he will give Christ the truth and light, grace and life to every man. But if the Christian loses Christ in his truth, he will be a diffuser of darkness. With his darkness he will lead the world to ruin.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints ensure that Christians feel the weight of their responsibility.

## And you will find rest for your selves

## Mt 11,28-30

### 18 JULY

Every Word uttered by Jesus must be said, interpreted, understood in the light of the Word of the Prophecy that announces and reveals what the Lord is about to do for his people. The rest offered by God that is rest offered in Christ Jesus, through Him, by Him, in Him, is the return of the man in his truth of origin, rather in an even greater truth. In Christ the man is made son of God and participant of his divine nature. In Christ the rest is made true peace with God, with oneself, with the brothers, with the creation. The true rest of the heart and of the mind is the peace of God, through the Holy Spirit.

*At that time, says the LORD, I will be the God of all the tribes of Israel, and they shall be my people. Thus says the LORD: The people that escaped the sword have found favor in the desert. As Israel comes forward to be given his rest, the LORD appears to him from afar: With age-old love I have loved you; so I have kept my mercy toward you. Again I will restore you, and you shall be rebuilt, O virgin Israel; Carrying your festive tambourines, you shall go forth dancing with the merrymakers. Again you shall plant vineyards on the mountains of Samaria; those who plant them shall enjoy the fruits. Yes, a day will come when the watchmen will call out on Mount Ephraim: "Rise up, let us go to Zion, to the LORD, our God." For thus says the LORD: Shout with joy for Jacob, exult at the head of the nations; proclaim your praise and say: The LORD has delivered his people, the remnant of Israel. Behold, I will bring them back from the land of the north; I will gather them from the ends of the world, with the blind and the lame in their midst, The mothers and those with child; they shall return as an immense throng. They departed in tears, but I will console them and guide them; I will lead them to brooks of water, on a level road, so that none shall stumble. For I am a father to Israel, Ephraim is my first-born.*

*Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: When I change their lot in the land of Judah and her cities, they shall again repeat this greeting: "May the LORD bless you, holy mountain, abode of justice!" Judah and all her cities, the farmers and those who lead the flock, shall dwell there together. For I will refresh the weary soul; every soul that languishes I will replenish. Upon this I awoke and opened my eyes; but my sleep was sweet to me. The days are coming, says the LORD, when I will seed the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of man and the seed of beast. As I once watched over them to uproot and pull down, to destroy, to ruin, and to harm, so I will watch over them to build and to plant, says the LORD. In those days they shall no longer say, "The fathers ate unripe grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge," but through his own fault only shall anyone die: the teeth of him who eats the unripe grapes shall be set on edge. The days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their fathers the day I took them by the hand to lead them forth from the land of Egypt; for they broke my covenant and I had to show myself their master, says the LORD. But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD. I will place my law within them, and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer will they have need to teach their friends and kinsmen how to know the LORD. All, from least to greatest, shall know me, says the LORD, for I will forgive their evildoing and remember their sin no more. (Cr. Ger 31,1-34).*

The rest is the fruit of the meekness and of the humbleness of Christ made our meekness and humbleness. With humbleness we accept the entire will of God for our life responding to it with perfect, continuing, uninterrupted obedience. With meekness, we receive on us all the evil of this world, all its crosses, its disdain, its harassment and we make it a sacrifice and a holocaust for the redemption of our brothers, need of Christ and of his salvation. As Jesus obeyed God and men, thus will the Christian do.

*"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart;* *and you will find rest for your selves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."*

The rest is not in the liberation from the crosses that the world puts on the shoulders of the one who has become imitator of Christ, meek and humble of heart, but it is in the grace that makes us live every cross, helping us turning it into a sacrifice of redemption for the world. The rest is seeing with the eyes of Christ, in the mighty light of the Holy Spirit, every suffering that hits our existence. Without the light of Christ, suffering is refused by man. Without his grace living it becomes impossible. It is the despair.

Mother of God, Angels, Saints, fill us with the light and the grace in Christ, through Him, with Him.

## You would not have condemned these innocent men

## Ex 11,10-12,14; Ps 115; Mt 12,1-8

### 19 JULY

Jesus uses the Old Scriptures to remove from the disciples the accusation of being transgressors of the law of the Lord. At that time it could also involve death by stoning. But the accusation was not against the disciples, but against Jesus who allowed such things as a Master in Israel. He made himself their accomplice and therefore responsible. In the face of hunger, every sacredness, every right and every law disappears. In the face of David’s hunger and his companions, the priest abolished the sacredness of the loaves.

*David went to Ahimelech, the priest of Nob, who came trembling to meet him and asked, "Why are you alone? Is there no one with you?" David answered the priest: "The king gave me a commission and told me to let no one know anything about the business on which he sent me or the commission he gave me. For that reason I have arranged a meeting place with my men. Now what have you on hand? Give me five loaves, or whatever you can find." But the priest replied to David, "I have no ordinary bread on hand, only holy bread; if the men have abstained from women, you may eat some of that." David answered the priest: "We have indeed been segregated from women as on previous occasions. Whenever I go on a journey, all the young men are consecrated - even for a secular journey. All the more so today, when they are consecrated at arms!" So the priest gave him holy bread, for no other bread was on hand except the showbread which had been removed from the Lord’s presence and replaced by fresh bread when it was taken away (Cf. 1Sam 21,2-10).*

The text of Hosea referred to by Jesus reveals to us a second highest truth. Faced with love of neighbour, rituality must also disappear. We know that the Fathers of the Church taught that between dressing an altar and a poor man, one must undress the altar and dress the poor. Mercy and not sacrifices. Bare altars but great mercy towards those who are poor and needy. The poor man is always Christ.

*"Come, let us return to the Lord, For it is he who has rent, but he will heal us; he has struck us, but he will bind our wounds. He will revive us after two days; on the third day he will raise us up, to live in his presence. Let us know, let us strive to know the Lord; as certain as the dawn is his coming, and his judgment shines forth like the light of day! He will come to us like the rain, like spring rain that waters the earth." What can I do with you, Ephraim? What can I do with you, Judah? Your piety is like a morning cloud, like the dew that early passes away. For this reason I smote them through the prophets, I slew them by the words of my mouth; For it is love that I desire, not sacrifice, and knowledge of God rather than holocausts. But they, in their land, violated the covenant; there they were untrue to me. Gilead is a city of evildoers, tracked with blood. As brigands ambush a man, a band of priests slay on the way to Shechem, committing monstrous crime. In the house of Israel I have seen a horrible thing: there harlotry is found in Ephraim, Israel is defiled. For you also, O Judah, a harvest has been appointed (Hos 6,1-11).*

Charity towards our brothers is the measure of our true holiness. The Pharisees are falsely, immorally and sinfully holy, because their holiness is false, immoral and sinful. They have a law, tailored to their heart. The true law is always made on the measure of the heart of God, who wants only the good of man. The heart of God is the heart of Christ Jesus, who gives his life to the Father for the salvation of all.

*At that time Jesus was going through a field of grain on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry and began to pick the heads of grain and eat them. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to him, "See, your disciples are doing what is unlawful to do on the Sabbath." He said to them, "Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were hungry, how he went into the house of God and ate the bread of offering, which neither he nor his companions but only the priests could lawfully eat? Or have you not read in the law that on the Sabbath the priests serving in the temple violate the Sabbath and are innocent? I say to you, something greater than the temple is here. If you knew what this meant, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned these innocent men. For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."*

True holiness is measured by true love. If love is false, holiness is also false.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints make us disciples with true love to be of true

## Took counsel against him to put him to death

## Ex 12,37-42; Ps 135; Mt 12,14-21

### 20 JULY

Against whom do the Pharisees take advice to make him die? Against him whom the Lord has chosen, called, sent, constituted and established the alliance of his people and light of the nations. Who are the Pharisees? They define and proclaim themselves the defenders of the holiness of God and the lovers of his true religion. But if we listen to what Jesus says about them, we must conclude that they are the defenders of themselves and of the religion of their hearts.

*"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, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites. You pay tithes of mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier things of the law: judgment and mercy and fidelity. (But) these you should have done, without neglecting the others. Blind guides, who strain out the gnat and swallow the camel! "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites. You cleanse the outside of cup and dish, but inside they are full of plunder and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee, cleanse first the inside of the cup, so that the outside also may be clean. "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 (Cf. Mt 23,13-28).*

In all his words and works Christ reveals himself as a true sign of contradiction. If his works and his words that come directly from the Father's heart, in the Holy Spirit, upset the Pharisees so much to push them to desire, want and decide his death, it is a clear sign that they are not in the Word of the Lord. They only take care of their sin business. Jesus is the realization of every prophecy of the Father.

*Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased, Upon whom I have put my spirit; he shall bring forth justice to the nations, Not crying out, not shouting, not making his voice heard in the street. A bruised reed he shall not break, and a smouldering wick he shall not quench, Until he establishes justice on the earth; the coastlands will wait for his teaching. Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spreads out the earth with its crops, Who gives breath to its people and spirit to those who walk on it: I, the Lord, have called you for the victory of justice, I have grasped you by the hand; I formed you, and set you as a covenant of the people, a light for the nations, To open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness. I am the Lord, this is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the earlier things have come to pass, new ones I now foretell; Before they spring into being, I announce them to you (Is 42,1-9).*

The truth of Christ is the very pure truth of God. The truth of God becomes historical truth in fullness of justice and holiness in the truth of Christ. Who is against the truth of Christ, is against the truth of God. Whoever does not have the truth of God and in his place has enthroned in his heart falsehood and lies, he might never accept the truth of Christ the Lord. Because darkness hates light, if it wants to reign it must kill light. The decision to kill Christ attests that the Pharisees are well beyond all limits of sin.

*But the Pharisees went out and took counsel against him to put him to death. When Jesus realized this, he withdrew from that place. Many (people) followed him, and he cured them all, but he warned them not to make him known. This was to fulfil what had been spoken through Isaiah the prophet: "Behold, my servant whom I have chosen, my beloved in whom I delight; I shall place my spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles. He will not contend or cry out, nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break, a smouldering wick he will not quench, until he brings justice to victory. And in his name the Gentiles will hope."*

Even today the modern Pharisees have decided to kill Christ. He is being killed in many ways. The most subtle, invisible and universal way is the one invented by Christians. They declared him no longer the only Saviour and Redeemer. He is one, but not the only one.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints ensure that that no Christian kills Christ and his truth.

 **JULY 2019**

***THIRD DECADE OF JULY***

## Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her

## Gn 18,1-1oa; Ps 14; Col 1,24-28; Lk 10,38-42

### 21 JULY

In front of the most precious and the most beautiful there is no choice. You take the most beautiful and precious thing. Jesus reveals this truth in two parables: the hidden treasure and the precious pearl. You sell what you have, you take the highest of beauty and preciousness.

*"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 (Mt 13,44-46).*

St. Paul, seized by Christ Jesus, on the road to Damascus, having understood in the Holy Spirit that Jesus is the eternal and historical all for him, he considered everything that was precious to him yesterday a rubbish before the excellence of Lord Jesus. His life turned into a race in order to reach Jesus even in the form of his body.

*Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. Writing the same things to you is no burden for me but is a safeguard for you. Beware of the dogs! Beware of the evil workers! Beware of the mutilation! For we are the circumcision, we who worship through the Spirit of God, who boast in Christ Jesus and do not put our confidence in flesh, although I myself have grounds for confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he can be confident in flesh, all the more can I. Circumcised on the eighth day, of the race of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrew parentage, in observance of the law a Pharisee, in zeal I persecuted the church, in righteousness based on the law I was blameless. (But) whatever gains I had, these I have come to consider a loss because of Christ. More than that, I even consider everything as a loss because of the supreme good of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have accepted the loss of all things and I consider them so much rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having any righteousness of my own based on the law but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God, depending on faith to know him and the power of his resurrection and (the) sharing of his sufferings by being conformed to his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. It is not that I have already taken hold of it or have already attained perfect maturity, but I continue my pursuit in hope that I may possess it, since I have indeed been taken possession of by Christ (Jesus). Brothers, I for my part do not consider myself to have taken possession. Just one thing: forgetting what lies behind but straining forward to what lies ahead, I continue my pursuit toward the goal, the prize of God's upward calling, in Christ Jesus (Phil 3,1-14).*

Jesus is the truth of the Father and of the Holy Spirit, of creation, of time, of eternity, of man, of life, of death, of Scripture, of the Church, of the Christian, of the Law, of the Gospel, of theology, of Morality, Ascetics and Mystics. He is the ever new truth of every theological and profane science. He is the truth of salvation, of redemption and of the mediation between God and the entire universe. If Jesus is the fullness of all things, it is foolish not to choose Him. He is the best part of all that will never be taken away. We lose all the other things, we leave them and abandon them. He is also the truth of our body. We choose him, he will resuscitate us in his resurrection of glory and light. Choosing Him is the wisdom of all wisdom.

*As they continued their journey he entered a village where a woman whose name was Martha welcomed him. She had a sister named Mary (who) sat beside the Lord at his feet listening to him speak. Martha, burdened with much serving, came to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me by myself to do the serving? Tell her to help me." The Lord said to her in reply, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her."*

Jesus enters Marta's house. Mary immediately grabs the unexpected grace. She stands at his feet and listens to the heart of Christ the Lord. No one might serve God according to the heart of God, if he does not place himself in a profound listening. Instead, Marta decides to serve Christ. She is a victim of her thoughts. She enter into confusion. She sinks into panic. It is the condition of many children of today's Church: they want to serve Christ from their hearts and feel defeated. They enter into panic. It would be enough to sit a little at the feet of Jesus.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints ensure that Christians learn how to listen to the heart of Christ.

## I am going to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God

## Ct 3,1-4a opp. 2 Cor 5,14-17; Ps 62; Jn 20,1-2.11-18

### 22 JULY

The true God, the one true God, the true Father, the only true Father, is the God and the Father of Jesus of Nazareth, his only Son, his Christ, his Saviour and Redeemer, his grace, truth, light and eternal life, given to every man for his eternal redemption. When does the God and Father of Jesus become our God and Father? When we become one body, one life, one truth and one obedience with Christ. All the Father has given himself to Jesus. All Jesus gives himself to us, on condition that we give ourselves to Jesus. If there is separation from Jesus, there is separation from God. If there is unity with Jesus, there is it is unity with God. If there is obedience to Jesus, there is obedience to God. Without Jesus it is eternal nothingness.

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavens, as he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and without blemish before him. In love he destined us for adoption to himself through Jesus Christ, in accord with the favour of his will, for the praise of the glory of his grace that he granted us in the beloved. In him we have redemption by his blood, the forgiveness of transgressions, in accord with the riches of his grace that he lavished upon us. In all wisdom and insight, he has made known to us the mystery of his will in accord with his favor that he set forth in him as a plan for the fullness of times, to sum up all things in Christ, in heaven and on earth. In him we were also chosen, destined in accord with the purpose of the one who accomplishes all things according to the intention of his will, so that we might exist for the praise of his glory, we who first hoped in Christ. In him you also, who have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and have believed in him, were sealed with the promised holy Spirit, which is the first instalment of our inheritance toward redemption as God's possession, to the praise of his glory (Eph 1,3-14).*

Therefore, all those statements that put Christ Jesus aside and indicate other Gods, other Redeemers, other Saviours, other Mediators, other ways, other truths, other lights, other paths to go to God must be declared a-scriptural, a-theological, amoral, a-spiritual, a-ecclesial and a-missionary; they are devoid of any revealed truth. The Father has established one Mediator, Saviour, Redeemer, Truth, Way and Life and one remains with Him forever. Men can also subvert every Law of God, but God will never legalize falsehood and lies against His Son as truth before Him.

*On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him."  But Mary stayed outside the tomb weeping. And as she wept, she bent over into the tomb and saw two angels in white sitting there, one at the head and one at the feet where the body of Jesus had been. And they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken my Lord, and I don't know where they laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus there, but did not know it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" She thought it was the gardener and said to him, "Sir, if you carried him away, tell me where you laid him, and I will take him." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni," which means Teacher. Jesus said to her, "Stop holding on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and tell them, 'I am going to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary of Magdala went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and what he told her.*

Nobody is allowed - if he wants to be honest intellectually and scientifically - to affirm in the name of God what God has never said. It is a sin against the second Commandment. The name of God is named in vain. But it is also a sin against the eighth Commandment. They say false testimonies against Jesus Christ and also God. Not only that. One also sins against all hagiographers. They are declared deaf to the voice of the Holy Spirit. We sin against the Church. She is declared despot and tyrannical, centralizing a truth that does not exist. The holy tradition is sullied with foolishness.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, do not allow Christians to sin against the truth.

## Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit

## Gal 2,19-20; Ps 33; Jn 15,1-8

### 23 JULY

Jesus says: "He who remains in me, and I in him, bears much fruit". It is right that we ask ourselves: "How do we remain in Christ? How does Christ remain in us? ". But even before that: "How do you get into Christ Jesus?" One enters Christ Jesus by getting converted to his Word. His Word is that of the Apostles. One listens to the Word of the Apostles, he converts to it. He lets himself be baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit; he becomes the body of Christ and his Church founded on Peter. Christ Jesus founded only this Church. All the others were founded or built or designed by men. But they lack many things. Who is without the Holy Spirit. Who is without sacraments. Who is without apostolic succession. Who is without the Eucharist. Who is without truth. Who is without true morality. Who is without growth in truth. Whoever pursues his thoughts and announces them as true thoughts of God. Who is even without Christ the Lord according to the purity of truth. If one does not remain in hierarchical communion with the apostolic Church he does not remain in the true Christ. We cannot produce fruit. We are not in the true Church of Christ.

*For, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. For the scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, enriching all who call upon him. For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." But how can they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how can they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone to preach? And how can people preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring (the) good news!" But not everyone has heeded the good news; for Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what was heard from us?" Thus faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ (Rm 10,9-17).*

*Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and they asked Peter and the other apostles, "What are we to do, my brothers?" Peter (said) to them, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the holy Spirit. For the promise is made to you and to your children and to all those far off, whomever the Lord our God will call." He testified with many other arguments, and was exhorting them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand persons were added that day. They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their property and possessions and divide them among all according to each one's need. Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple area and to breaking bread in their homes. They ate their meals with exultation and sincerity of heart, praising God and enjoying favour with all the people. And every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved (At 2,37-47).*

But one can stay in the Church in an "absent" way, with the body. This happens when Christ does not dwell in us. Christ dwells in us if we are listeners of his Holy Spirit. As He was always listening to the Father in the Holy Spirit and was in the Father, so the disciple must be a listener of the Spirit of God so that Christ may dwell in him.

*"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and everyone that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit. You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you. Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.*

The one who lives in the Word of the Apostles can hear the Spirit. There is no listening outside.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints make us true hearers of the Word of the Apostles of Jesus.

## A sower went out to sow

## Ex 16,1 -5.9-1 5; Ps 77; Mt 13,1-9

### 24 JULY

Whoever has to sow the Word of the Lord first must eat it, making it his flesh, his blood and his life. He must also know the grave responsibility of his mission. If anyone were to get lost because of his omission, he will be asked to account for his eternal perdition or damnation. He did not obey the command received. This page of Ezekiel reveals both the modalities and every responsibility.

*He said to me: Son of man, eat what is before you; eat this scroll, then go, speak to the house of Israel. So I opened my mouth and he gave me the scroll to eat. Son of man, he then said to me, feed your belly and fill your stomach with this scroll I am giving you. I ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. He said: Son of man, go now to the house of Israel, and speak my words to them. Not to a people with difficult speech and barbarous language am I sending you, nor to the many peoples (with difficult speech and barbarous language) whose words you cannot understand. If I were to send you to these, they would listen to you; but the house of Israel will refuse to listen to you, since they will not listen to me. For the whole house of Israel is stubborn of brow and obstinate in heart. But I will make your face as hard as theirs, and your brow as stubborn as theirs, like diamond, harder than flint. Fear them not, nor be dismayed at their looks, for they are a rebellious house. Son of man, he said to me, take into your heart all my words that I speak to you; hear them well. Now go to the exiles, to your countrymen, and say to them: Thus says the Lord GOD! - whether they heed or resist!*

*Then spirit lifted me up, and I heard behind me the noise of a loud rumbling as the glory of the Lord rose from its place: the noise made by the wings of the living creatures striking one another, and by the wheels alongside them, a loud rumbling. The spirit which had lifted me up seized me, and I went off spiritually stirred, while the hand of the Lord rested heavily upon me. Thus I came to the exiles who lived at Tel-abib by the river Chebar, and for seven days I sat among them distraught. Thus the word of the Lord came to me: Son of man, I have appointed you a watchman for the house of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, you shall warn them for me. If I say to the wicked man, You shall surely die; and you do not warn him or speak out to dissuade him from his wicked conduct so that he may live: that wicked man shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, on the other hand, you have warned the wicked man, yet he has not turned away from his evil nor from his wicked conduct, then he shall die for his sin, but you shall save your life. If a virtuous man turns away from virtue and does wrong when I place a stumbling block before him, he shall die. He shall die for his sin, and his virtuous deeds shall not be remembered; but I will hold you responsible for his death if you did not warn him. When, on the other hand, you have warned a virtuous man not to sin, and he has in fact not sinned, he shall surely live because of the warning, and you shall save your own life (Ez 3,1-21).*

Who needs to eat the roll? First of all the pope, then the bishops, the presbyters and deacons. The confirmed and the baptized follow. Everyone is a prophet in Christ according to the grace and conformation to him that is born of the particular sacrament received.

*On that day, Jesus went out of the house and sat down by the sea. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat down, and the whole crowd stood along the shore. And he spoke to them at length in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky ground, where it had little soil. It sprang up at once because the soil was not deep, and when the sun rose it was scorched, and it withered for lack of roots. Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it. But some seed fell on rich soil, and produced fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold. Whoever has ears ought to hear."*

In the Church of Christ Jesus, the ministry of sowing and teaching is of the Apostle of the Lord. If he does not eat the roll every day, does not announce and does not teach, he is responsible for every soul that is lost for the gift of the Word that is not given to it. Priests, deacons, confirmed and baptized always come, in communion with him. However, everyone with a specific and different responsibility.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints ensure that every Christian lives his very high responsibility.

## Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee approached him

## 2 Cor 4,7-15; Ps 125; Mt 20,20-28

### 25 JULY

In the things of his Father, never has Jesus allowed anyone to interfere. He never allowed it even to his Mother. But everyone can turn to him with prayer. The decision to listen or not to listen is his alone. This firmness is necessary to every minister of the Lord and also to every one of his disciples or Christians.

*After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them (Lk 2,46-50). Then his mother and his brothers came to him but were unable to join him because of the crowd. He was told, "Your mother and your brothers are standing outside and they wish to see you." He said to them in reply, "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and act on it" (Lk 8,19-21).*

*On the third day there was a wedding in Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." (And) Jesus said to her, "Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servers, "Do whatever he tells you" (Jn 2,1-5). But the Jewish feast of Tabernacles was near. So his brothers said to him, "Leave here and go to Judea, so that your disciples also may see the works you are doing. No one works in secret if he wants to be known publicly. If you do these things, manifest yourself to the world." For his brothers did not believe in him. So Jesus said to them, "My time is not yet here, but the time is always right for you. The world cannot hate you, but it hates me, because I testify to it that its works are evil. You go up to the feast. I am not going up to this feast, because my time has not yet been fulfilled." After he had said this, he stayed on in Galilee. But when his brothers had gone up to the feast, he himself also went up, not openly but (as it were) in secret (Jn 7,2-10).*

*From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer greatly from the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised. Then Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, "God forbid, Lord! No such thing shall ever happen to you." He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do" (Mt 16,21-23).*

No one must change, transform and alter the things of his Father. As He lends to the Father the utmost total pure obedience, so every other man must lend his utmost total pure obedience. He can show every man how to obey. Everything else is governed by the Father in his Holy Spirit.

*Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee approached him with her sons and did him homage, wishing to ask him for something. He said to her, "What do you wish?" She answered him, "Command that these two sons of mine sit, one at your right and the other at your left, in your kingdom." Jesus said in reply, "You do not know what you are asking. Can you drink the cup that I am going to drink?" They said to him, "We can." He replied, "My cup you will indeed drink, but to sit at my right and at my left (, this) is not mine to give but is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father." When the ten heard this, they became indignant at the two brothers. But Jesus summoned them and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and the great ones make their authority over them felt. But it shall not be so among you. Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you shall be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave. Just so, the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

Disciples are currently experiencing a precarious balance. Everyone has his own project hidden in the heart. The balance is preserved until the project is unveiled. Jesus intervenes by announcing to them that in his reign one must think the opposite way, not from above but from below. The greatest is the one who makes himself the smallest. The highest is the one who is placed in the last place. He is useful to the kingdom who consecrates all his life to it.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, make us useful to the kingdom in the gift of our life to it.

## Yields a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold

## Ex 20,1-17; Ps 18; Mt 13,18-23

### 26 JULY

The parable of the sower is full of hope for the sower of the Word. Jesus sowed the Word. Not all the people of the Lord were converted. Just after the ascension in Jerusalem, there were already one hundred and twenty people. It is an abundant fruit.

*All these devoted themselves with one accord to prayer, together with some women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers. During those days Peter stood up in the midst of the brothers (there was a group of about one hundred and twenty persons ... (Cf. At 1,12-15).*

It begins with the descent of the Holy Spirit. Immediately about three thousand people join the community. After the first miracles, the number of men reaches about five thousand. Conversion is not only for the sons of Israel. Even pagans welcome the Word. It is for every man, because Jesus Christ is for every man. He is for everyone. The Holy Spirit chooses Barnabas and Saul and sends them to a mission to the pagans. In Corinth the Lord reassures Paul. There is a large population in the city.

*He testified with many other arguments, and was exhorting them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand persons were added that day (Cf. At 2,37-41).* *But many of those who heard the word came to believe and (the) number of men grew to (about) five thousand (Cf. At 4,1-4).*

*Now those who had been scattered by the persecution that arose because of Stephen went as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to no one but Jews. There were some Cypriots and Cyrenians among them, however, who came to Antioch and began to speak to the Greeks as well, proclaiming the Lord Jesus. The hand of the Lord was with them and a great number who believed turned to the Lord. The news about them reached the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas (to go) to Antioch (At 11,19-22).* *Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Symeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who was a close friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then, completing their fasting and prayer, they laid hands on them and sent them off (At 13,1-3).* *One night in a vision the Lord said to Paul, "Do not be afraid. Go on speaking, and do not be silent, for I am with you. No one will attack and harm you, for I have many people in this city." He settled there for a year and a half and taught the word of God among them (At 18,9-22).*

Do all get converted? In the front of the missionaries there are always the hearts that are road, stony soil, soil full of thorns and the good soil. It was like that for Jesus. It's like this for every one of his disciples. The Lord gives us a certainty: the good soil is always there. There is always a good heart that listens. When one reads the Acts of the Apostles this truth is the essence of the narration. Paul never spoke in vain in one place. He has always collected precious fruits for the kingdom of God. The Word of Jesus is very pure truth.

*"Hear then the parable of the sower. The seed sown on the path is the one who hears the word of the kingdom without understanding it, and the evil one comes and steals away what was sown in his heart. The seed sown on rocky ground is the one who hears the word and receives it at once with joy. But he has no root and lasts only for a time. When some tribulation or persecution comes because of the word, he immediately falls away. The seed sown among thorns is the one who hears the word, but then worldly anxiety and the lure of riches choke the word and it bears no fruit. But the seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold."*

Another truth that must be put in the heart wants that not every seed produces the same quantity of fruit. There is that one respondent to one hundred, one to sixty and some to thirty. In this the Sower must be very wise and knowing. He cannot expect the same result from everyone. He must sow, cure, cultivate, protect and defend the seed. Then, the seed will produce according to its capacity. A truth today forgotten by everyone. All claim to be equal to others. It is not given by nature and by grace.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, give us the wisdom to understand the Word of Jesus.

## He answered, 'An enemy has done this'

## Mt 13,24-30

### 27 JULY

Weeds were not born in time, but they come from the heaven of God. Lucifer was able to sow lie and falsity even among the Angels of God. He was the most shining Angel. Precipitated on earth, he started to sow his falsity in the Garden of Eden. He sowed them in the heart of the woman. Through the woman, he sowed them in the heart of man.

*Then another sign appeared in the sky; it was a huge red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on its heads were seven diadems. Its tail swept away a third of the stars in the sky and hurled them down to the earth. Then the dragon stood before the woman about to give birth, to devour her child when she gave birth. She gave birth to a son, a male child, destined to rule all the nations with an iron rod. Her child was caught up to God and his throne. The woman herself fled into the desert where she had a place prepared by God, that there she might be taken care of for twelve hundred and sixty days. Then war broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels battled against the dragon. The dragon and its angels fought back, but they did not prevail and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. The huge dragon, the ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, who deceived the whole world, was thrown down to earth, and its angels were thrown down with it. (Rev 12,1-9).*

*Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the animals that the LORD God had made. The serpent asked the woman, "Did God really tell you not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?" The woman answered the serpent: "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; it is only about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden that God said, 'You shall not eat it or even touch it, lest you die.'" But the serpent said to the woman: "You certainly will not die! No, God knows well that the moment you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods who know what is good and what is bad." The woman saw that the tree was good for food, pleasing to the eyes, and desirable for gaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized that they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves. (Gen 4,1-7).*

In the college of the Apostles weeds were sowed too. They were sowed in Judas’s heart, turning him into a devil and prompting him to betray the Teacher. In the Church, as well, immediately after the Pentecost, weeds appear. They used a man and a woman. However, Peter has not let himself be deceived by his weeds. Corinth is a fertile field where Lucifer was able to sow every falsity. Divisions, immorality, loss of every truth. Even the faith in the resurrection was dead.

*Before the feast of Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to pass from this world to the Father. He loved his own in the world and he loved them to the end. The devil had already induced Judas, son of Simon the Iscariot, to hand him over. (Jn 13,1-2). A man named Ananias, however, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property. He retained for himself, with his wife's knowledge, some of the purchase price, took the remainder, and put it at the feet of the apostles. But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart so that you lied to the holy Spirit and retained part of the price of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain yours? And when it was sold, was it not still under your control? Why did you contrive this deed? You have lied not to human beings, but to God." (Act 5,1-4). It is widely reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of a kind not found even among pagans - a man living with his father's wife. And you are inflated with pride. (1Cor 5,1-2).*

There is no place on earth where weeds cannot be sowed. Dioceses, parishes, kiosks, coenobites, hermitages, seminars, movements, associations, families, institutions at all levels, as soon as they are put into place, weeds immediately appear. Whoever wants to enter a house of only pure is in a grievous error. This desire attests that weeds are already in his heart. These desires are the fruit of satan. They are his seed of falsity.

*He proposed another parable to them. "The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everyone was asleep his enemy came and sowed weeds all through the wheat, and then went off. When the crop grew and bore fruit, the weeds appeared as well. The slaves of the householder came to him and said, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where have the weeds come from?'* *He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' His slaves said to him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?' He replied, 'No, if you pull up the weeds you might uproot the wheat along with them. Let them grow together until harvest; then at harvest time I will say to the harvesters, "First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles for burning; but gather the wheat into my barn."'*

Mother of God, Angels, Saints, help us so that the enemy may not sow weeds in us.

## Lord, teach us to pray

## Lk 11,1-13

### 28 JULY

The first prayer raised to the Lord in the Scripture is that of Abel. It is a prayer where one confesses God author of every good produced by his creation. God gives good things to us. We thank Him giving Him the best things among his beautiful things. Instead, Cain gives God the waste of things. God will never appreciate such an offer. Example. Can we give God the waste of time? If Sunday is consecrated to his name, can we give Him its waste? Such an offer is like that of Cain, not like that of Abel. With the prophet Malachi, the Lord reveals to reject such offers. He wants the best of things and of time, the best of our heart, the best of our thoughts, the best of our life.

*In the course of time Cain brought an offering to the LORD from the fruit of the soil, while Abel, for his part, brought one of the best firstlings of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not. Cain greatly resented this and was crestfallen. So the LORD said to Cain: "Why are you so resentful and crestfallen? If you do well, you can hold up your head; but if not, sin is a demon lurking at the door: his urge is toward you, yet you can be his master." (Gen 4,3-7).*

*A son honors his father, and a servant fears his master; If then I am a father, where is the honor due to me? And if I am a master, where is the reverence due to me? -  So says the LORD of hosts to you, O priests, who despise his name. But you ask, "How have we despised your name?" By offering polluted food on my altar! Then you ask, "How have we polluted it?" By saying the table of the LORD may be slighted! When you offer a blind animal for sacrifice, is this not evil? When you offer the lame or the sick, is it not evil? Present it to your governor; see if he will accept it, or welcome you, says the LORD of hosts. (Mal 1,6-8).*

Today we all lack in the prayer of offer. We are not at all grateful to the Lord. We do not want to confess that everything is of God. God has offered all Himself to his Father from the cross for the redemption of the world. What do we offer to God for the salvation of our brothers? Without the prayer of offer, there is no prayer of thanksgiving, and neither a prayer of request for forgiveness and for blessing. If we pray, we pray from the falsity of heart and of life, not from truth.

*He was praying in a certain place, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples." He said to them, "When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread and forgive us our sins for we ourselves forgive everyone in debt to us, and do not subject us to the final test." And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend to whom he goes at midnight and says, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, for a friend of mine has arrived at my house from a journey and I have nothing to offer him,' and he says in reply from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked and my children and I are already in bed. I cannot get up to give you anything.' I tell you, if he does not get up to give him the loaves because of their friendship, he will get up to give him whatever he needs because of his persistence. "And I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. What father among you would hand his son a snake when he asks for a fish? Or hand him a scorpion when he asks for an egg? If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the Father in heaven give the holy Spirit to those who ask him?"*

Jesus is teaching his disciples who have already given their life to Him to pray. Therefore, everyone, if one wants to pray well, must remain faithful to the gift given to God through the sacrament he has received. Every sacrament involves a particular gift. We must pray in this gift and from this gift. The first request is the faithfulness to the gift made not only for us, but also for the others. This request must be made with great perseverance. Without never getting tired. In the faithfulness to the gift made to God, every other thing is given in addition. The Holy Spirit one asks is the Spirit of the faithfulness to the Lord.

Mother of God, Angels, Saints, help us always pray from the faithfulness to our gift.

## Whatever you ask of God, God will give you

## 1 Jn 4,7-16; Ps 33; Jn 11,19-27

### 29 JULY

Martha has in her heart a faith in Jesus, but a not completely perfect one. It still lacks in many truths. True faith is not based on one truth. It is a multiple truth. The truths of the most pure faith in Lord Jesus cannot be counted. Every Word of Ancient Scripture and of the New Testament manifest a necessary truth to possess complete faith in Christ Jesus. But all Scripture is not sufficient either. There is the whole Tradition, the Magisterium, Theology and Agiography. They are all ways to achieve the purity of faith in the Saviour and Lord, Redeemer and God, the Incarnate, Crucified and Risen word, Ascended into Heaven and constituted by the Father Judge of the living and the dead. Some truth is already known. The centurion had revealed it. The presence of Jesus is not necessary to work a miracle. Many of Jesus' miracles are made at the request of others, while the person to be healed, cured and liberated is absent and far away.

*When he entered Capernaum, a centurion approached him and appealed to him, saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, suffering dreadfully." He said to him, "I will come and cure him." The centurion said in reply, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof; only say the word and my servant will be healed. For I too am a person subject to authority, with soldiers subject to me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come here,' and he comes; and to my slave, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, "Amen, I say to you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith. I say to you, many will come from the east and the west, and will recline with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob at the banquet in the kingdom of heaven, but the children of the kingdom will be driven out into the outer darkness, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth." And Jesus said to the centurion, "You may go; as you have believed, let it be done for you." And at that very hour (his) servant was healed (Mt 8,5-13).*

The faith of Martha is not even perfect in believing in the immediate Word of Jesus: "Your brother will rise again". She immediately refers to the resurrection of the last day. And when Christ Jesus tells her: "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live; whoever lives and believes in me will not die forever "and then he asks her:" Do you believe this? ", she replies with a profession of general, not particular faith: "Yes, O Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, he who comes into the world". For Marta, the brother is dead and he will remain dead. In her heart she is convinced that by now Jesus might not do anything, even because her brother has been in the tomb for four days already, and is already in a state of decomposition. A decaying corpse in her judgment might never be brought back to life. This is the current state of her faith. Other things cannot be asked, even if some elements of the truth of faith in Christ are already known.

*And many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him; but Mary sat at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. (But) even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise." Martha said to him, "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."*

Today more than ever it is urgent to put every effort to compose in our heart all the elements that make the truth of the most pure faith in Jesus the Lord. It suffices that a single truth is lacking and faith is found without the fullness of light and consequently also of strength in the Holy Spirit to move our life forward towards its perfect fulfilment in Christ Jesus. Since in the present hour Christ the Redeemer has been reduced to a vague feeling, having found him stripped of all truth, it becomes impossible for the Christian to direct his life to his Saviour and Redeemer. He does not know his divine and human traits. In addition, a devastating work of false prophets is added to this that daily remove truth from truth, and we will understand why true hope and divine charity have died in hearts. Can it be remedied? It takes a long, long time.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, help us to bring our heart into the truth of Jesus.

## The enemy who sows them is the devil

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

### 30 JULY

Saint Paul teaches the disciples of Jesus that Satan also dresses as an angel of light for the ruin of believers. Angel of light is the Christian. Satan can assume the clothes of the Christian for the ruin of the Church and of the world. Christian is the pope, the bishop, the presbyter, the deacon, the confirmed and the baptized. A Christian is also one who feeds on the Eucharist. Christian is the theologian, the teacher and the doctor. Christian is also the great professor. Satan can use all the disciples of Jesus to sow weeds.

*For I am jealous of you with the jealousy of God, since I betrothed you to one husband to present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts may be corrupted from a sincere (and pure) commitment to Christ. For if someone comes and preaches another Jesus than the one we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it well enough. For I think that I am not in any way inferior to these "superapostles." For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, who masquerade as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan masquerades as an angel of light. So it is not strange that his ministers also masquerade as ministers of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds (2Cor 11,1-15).*

As a protection and defence against the snares of the Angel of light, St. Paul invites Christians to wear a special armour. With it you are immune from every danger.

*Finally, draw your strength from the Lord and from his mighty power. Put on the armour of God so that you may be able to stand firm against the tactics of the devil. For our struggle is not with flesh and blood but with the principalities, with the powers, with the world rulers of this present darkness, with the evil spirits in the heavens. Therefore, put on the armour of God, that you may be able to resist on the evil day and, having done everything, to hold your ground. So stand fast with your loins girded in truth, clothed with righteousness as a breastplate, and your feet shod in readiness for the gospel of peace. In all circumstances, hold faith as a shield, to quench all (the) flaming arrows of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. With all prayer and supplication, pray at every opportunity in the Spirit. To that end, be watchful with all perseverance and supplication for all the holy ones (Eph 6,10-18).*

The truths of the parable are many. We only highlight three of them. On the earth, in the same place, in the same house and in the same community, wheat and weeds always grow together and walk together. However, it is always the Christian's duty to put all attention not to let lies and falsehood be sown in his heart. With falsehood he also transforms himself into an angel of light. Did not the woman turn for man into an angel of light for the ruin of all mankind? But everyone must know that if he becomes a weed, there will be no place for him in the granaries of heaven. His place is in the flames of eternal fire. He will burn without consuming himself forever and ever.

*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.*

But now between what the Gospel announces and what we believe there is an infinite distance. Many of Jesus' disciples turned into angels of light and took away the truth from the Word of Jesus. There is no more wheat or even weeds. We are all equal before God. There is no longer eternal hell. We will all be welcomed into Paradise. There is not even the Gospel anymore. Even Christ Jesus is no longer needed. All "Gods" are equal.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints arrange that the hearts believe in the truth of the Gospel of Jesus.

## When he finds a pearl of great price

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

### 31 JULY

The precious pearl is God, Christ Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the body of Christ, his Church, the grace of redemption and salvation, eternal life and the love of God poured into our hearts. To possess these goods forever, if we have to sell our bodies so that they are crucified, stoned, beheaded, torn, scourged, insulted, spat, mocked and outraged, it is worth it. On the other hand, Christ Jesus has left us the example. Did He not deliver his body to the nails to bring his soul into the highest and to redeem the world by means of his sacrifice? A body is not worth a soul. The body is given to the Lord and He acquires souls for eternal bliss.

*From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he**must go to Jerusalem and suffer greatly from the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised. Then Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, "God forbid, Lord! No such thing shall ever happen to you." He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do." 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 (Mt 16,21-27).*

*Consequently, brothers, we are not debtors to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry, "Abba, Father!" The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if only we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us (Rm 8,12-18).*

In the parable of the hidden treasure, one must admire the wisdom of man. He discovers a treasure. He discovers it by chance. It belongs to the owner of the field. He hides it, sells what he owns and buys the field. He becomes owner of the treasure. Intelligence is placed at the service of the greatest good. We have an eternity of eternal glory. Before our eyes, a moment of ephemeral glory. We choose the ephemeral glory and we lose eternal glory. We are foolish and ignorant. The rich villain, for a luxury dress and a dish of delicacies of a moment, lost eternal bliss. He ended up in the eternal fire burned by flames. If he could return to earth, I'm sure he would never take a seat at table and never wear a single suit. He would rather cover himself with rags, but end up in the glory of Paradise after death. But life is lived only once. You save it forever, but you also lose it forever. The choice is ours.

*"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.*

The parable of the precious pearl reveals to us that the human heart is pushed towards the search for the most beautiful and the most precious. However, this research is for material things. The flesh seeks the beautiful and the precious for the flesh. If the Holy Spirit dwells and lives in us, he will give us the taste of the search for what is beautiful and precious for eternity. The flesh attracts towards the flesh. The Spirit attracts towards eternal and invisible things. He who is devoid of the Holy Spirit will never be attracted to Heaven. He is a prisoner of his flesh. The Spirit, a gift of Christ, welcomed in us and invoked without interruption, frees our life from the slavery of the flesh and directs it towards the conquest of the eternal and incorruptible goods.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, fill us with the Holy Spirit. We will walk towards Heaven.