**Ask and it will be given to you**

**THURSDAY FEBRUARY 25 (Mt 7,7-12)**

When do we ask, and the Father gives to us? When do we knock, and the Father opens to us? There are two rules for knocking: our mercy and forgiveness: *“The vengeful will suffer the LORD'S vengeance, for he remembers their sins in detail. Forgive your neighbor's injustice; then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven. Should a man nourish anger against his fellows and expect healing from the LORD? Should a man refuse mercy to his fellows, yet seek pardon for his own sins? If he who is but flesh cherishes wrath, who will forgive his sins? Remember your last days, set enmity aside; remember death and decay, and cease from sin! Think of the commandments, hate not your neighbor; of the Most High's covenant, and overlook faults. "(Sir 28, 1-7).*If we knock with hands full of mercy and a heart full of forgiveness, the Lord will always open to us.

Almsgiving to the poor makes us find the door already open. There is not even need to ask: *“Hallelujah! Blessed the man who fears the LORD, who greatly delights in his commands. His descendants shall be mighty in the land, a generation of the upright will be blessed. Wealth and riches shall be in his house; his righteousness shall endure forever. Light shines through the darkness for the upright; gracious, compassionate, and righteous. It is good for the man gracious in lending, who conducts his affairs with justice. For he shall never be shaken; the righteous shall be remembered forever. He shall not fear an ill report; his heart is steadfast, trusting the LORD. His heart is tranquil, without fear, till at last he looks down on his foes. Lavishly he gives to the poor; his righteousness shall endure forever; his horn shall be exalted in honor. The wicked sees and is angry; gnashes his teeth and wastes away; the desire of the wicked come to nothing. " (Ps 112 (111) 1-10).*A man attentive to the needs of his brothers will always find the heart of God attentive to his every need. St. Paul tells us that his God solves all our problems if we solve our brothers’problems of hunger and need: *“Still, it was kind of you to share in my distress. You Philippians indeed know that at the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, not a single church shared with me in an account of giving and receiving, except you alone. For even when I was at Thessalonica you sent me something for my needs, not only once but more than once. It is not that I am eager for the gift; rather, I am eager for the profit that accrues to your account. I have received full payment and I abound. I am very well supplied because of what I received from you through Epaphroditus, "a fragrant aroma," an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. My God will fully supply whatever you need, in accord with his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father, glory forever and ever. Amen. "(Phil 4, 14-20).*It takes faith to believe in this Word of the Lord. The great faith in the Word must always be transformed into a great work of mercy.

*Ask and it will be given to you; 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. Which one of you would hand his son a stone when he asks for a loaf of bread, or a snake when he asks for a fish? If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good things to those who ask him. "Do to others whatever you would have them do to you. This is the law and the prophets.*

This last rule of Jesus is simple in its application but also rich in so much benevolence on the part of the Lord our God. Every man has desire for good, charity, love, blessing, benevolence, understanding, forgiveness, justice, everything else necessary for his life. If a person wants men to do all these things to him, he too must do them to others. It would be enough to ask: "*If I were in his place, what would I want*". If I want a certain thing and I am able to do it, I have to do it. This is the Law, and these are the prophets. Mercy towards brothers not only covers a multitude of sins, but it also always opens the heart of the Father, who will pour out all his grace upon us. Mercy is like a lightning rod. Draw blessings upon us.

Mother of the Redemption, Angels, Saints, make us always rich in mercy.