**Go first and be reconciled with your brother**

**FRIDAY FEBRUARY 26 (Mt 5, 20-26)**

The disciple of Jesus must live by imitating his Father who is in heaven. The Father gave his Only Son for our reconciliation. *"No one has gone up to heaven except the one who has come down from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life." for God so loved the world That he gave His only Son, so THAT everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life." (Cfr. Jn 3.13-21).*The Father not only gave His Only Begotten Son, but He also made the Son to be sin for us: *"For the love of Christ impels us, once we have come to the conviction that one died for all; therefore, all have died. He indeed died for all, so that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. Consequently, from now on we regard no one according to the flesh; even if we once knew Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know him so no longer. So whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come. And all this is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and given us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting their trespasses against them and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. So we are ambassadors for Christ, as if God were appealing through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who did not know sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him." (2Cor 5: 14-21).*He made a sacrifice, a holocaust for the atonement of every sin and punishment of humanity. For this sacrifice and holocaust, the Father pours out his Holy Spirit upon us for our justification and salvation.

We must not only be in the image of the Father, but also in the image of Christ Jesus, who before offering the Father the sacrifice of his life, was reconciled with his brothers who had nailed him to the cross: "*When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him and the criminals there, one on his right, the other on his left. [Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do."] They divided his garments by casting lots. "(Lk 23: 33-34).*The first who died like Christ Jesus, imitating his example was Stephen: "*But he, filled with the holy Spirit, looked up intently to heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." But they cried out in a loud voice, covered their ears, and rushed upon him together. They threw him out of the city, and began to stone him. The witnesses laid down their cloaks at the feet of a young man named Saul. As they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he fell to his knees and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them"; and when he said this, he fell asleep." (Act 7,55-60).*Death of Christ, death of Stephen.

*I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter into the kingdom of heaven. "You have heard that it was said to your ancestors, 'You shall not kill; and whoever kills will be liable to judgment.' But I say to you, whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment, and whoever says to his brother, 'Raqa,' will be answerable to the Sanhedrin, and whoever says, 'You fool,' will be liable to fiery Gehenna. Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Settle with your opponent quickly while on the way to court with him. Otherwise your opponent will hand you over to the judge, and the judge will hand you over to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Amen, I say to you, you will not be released until you have paid the last penny.*

The Christian is not only the one who forgives the sin of his debtors, if asked. He is the one who anticipates the request and offers him peace to the offenders. But this is still not enough. This is not all a Christian has to do. In imitation of Christ Jesus, in Christ Jesus and through him, he must make himself sin, that is, holocaust and sacrifice, for the forgiveness of the sins of the world. The life of the Christian is a life consecrated to the forgiveness of all sin.

Mother of the Redemption, Angels, Saints, make our life a sacrifice to the Father.