**Everything has been given to me by my Father**

**THURSDAY APRIL 29 (Mt 11, 25-30)**

Not only has everything been given by the Father to Christ Jesus, but it is also the will of the Father that the whole mystery of salvation and redemption, of justification and sanctification, be fulfilled in Christ and lived with Christ. The whole Father and the Holy Spirit give themselves to man through Christ, but they also give themselves in Christ and work with Christ. Nothing happens without Christ. The allegory of the vine and the branches reveals how this happens: *" 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. bear much fruit and become my disciples." (Jn 15, 1-8).*It is a bond of life, a bond of nature. Just as the branch must be tied to the vine, inserted in it, if it wants to live, so it is too for every man. Whoever wants life must "draw" it from Christ Jesus, becoming with him one body, one true vine.

The other bond revealed by Paolo is no less natural and no less strong: *“For in him dwells the whole fullness of the deity bodily, and you share in this fullness in him, who is the head of every principality and power. In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not administered by hand, by stripping off the carnal body, with the circumcision of Christ. You were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. And even when you were dead (in) transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, he brought you to life along with him, having forgiven us all our transgressions; obliterating the bond against us, with its legal claims, which was opposed to us, he also removed it from our midst, nailing it to the cross; despoiling the principalities and the powers, he made a public spectacle of them, leading them away in triumph by it. "(Col 2, 9-15).*Today, this richness of Christ's truth is as it was disappearing. Many have a vague, evanescent image of Jesus the Lord without content. And to think that all the great Patristics and the great Theology had Christ the Lord as the heart of their reflection. It is urgent that Christ return to be the heart of Scripture, the heart of Tradition, the heart of the Magisterium, the heart of the Church, the heart of theology, the heart of pastoral care, the heart of every disciple of Jesus. But we have a heartless man served by a heartless man, because the man who serves lacks of the heart which is Christ Jesus. We are heartless.

*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. "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 Father in his benevolence has arranged that Christ the Lord be the heart of the whole created universe. Whoever welcomes Christ lives because he has in his breast the heart established by the Father. Whoever does not welcome Christ is in death because he is deprived of his true heart. He has a heart of stone and not the heart of flesh willed and given by the Father. Today the Church too is in danger of being left without a heart, because she is stripping herself of Christ. Christ Jesus, heart of the world and of the Church, heart of the universe is irreplaceable. Either one lives with his heart or one is in death. With a heart of stone, one cannot live, one will never be able to live.

Mother of the Redemption, Angels, Saints, let us put within us the heart of Christ.