**You are my friends if you do what I command you**

**FRIDAY MAY 7 (Jn 15,12-17)**

Being friends of Christ Jesus has requirements that must be highlighted in full light: *“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. "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.*" *(Mt 10, 32-39).* Christ Jesus is chosen and only Him, everything else must be chosen in Him, with Him, for Him, always according to his will. What is against his will, his Gospel, his Word, his heart, can never be chosen by his disciples.

If friendship with Jesus obliges every Christian to make choices always according to his will, much more obliges the Apostles and Missionaries of his Gospel: *"As they were proceeding on their journey someone said to him, "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." And to another he said, "Follow me." But he replied, "(Lord,) let me go first and bury my father." But he answered him, "Let the dead bury their dead. But you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." And another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but first let me say farewell to my family at home." (To him) Jesus said, "No one who sets a hand to the plow and looks to what was left behind is fit for the kingdom of God." (Lk 9, 57-62).* Jesus requests for someone to be His Apostle to renounce all goods and riches of his: *"An official asked him this question," Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus answered him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery; you shall not kill; you shall not steal; you shall not bear false witness; honor your father and your mother. '" And he replied," All of these I have observed from my youth. " When Jesus heard this he said to him, "There is still one thing left for you: sell all that you have and distribute it to the poor, and you will have a treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." But when he heard this he became quite sad, for he was very rich.*" *(Lk 18, 18-23).* These conditions must all be observed. What then is friendship with Christ? It is giving our life to Christ Jesus so that He may place it entirely at the service of his Gospel, of his Kingdom, of his truth, of his love, of his light.

*This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. This I command you: love one another.*

When we give ourselves entirely to Christ Jesus, He gives himself entirely to us. What happens between us and Christ the Lord happens between Christ Jesus and the Father. Christ Jesus lives everything for the Father and the Father lives everything for Christ Jesus. The Father gives everything to Christ and Christ gives everything to the Father. So it is also in the relationship with the Apostles. The Apostles give themselves in everything to Christ and Christ gives himself in everything to the Apostles. Until they become one. This is the great miracle of friendship with Jesus the Lord. The more we give ourselves to Him, the more He gives Himself to us. Without measure we give ourselves to him. Without measure he gives himself to us. When Christ the Lord gives himself without measure to one of his Apostles, then great is the light, the truth, the justice, the peace that descends into many hearts.

Mother of the Redemption, Angels, Saints, let us give ourselves to Christ Without measure.