***They belonged to you, and you gave them to me,***

**TUESDAY MAY 18 (Jn 17,1-11)**

Everything belongs to the Father. Everything from the Father was given to Christ the Lord. Jesus already revealed this truth when he spoke of the Good Shepherd: *“I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep* *that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd. This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have power to lay it down, and power to take it up again. This command I have received from my Father. " The feast of the Dedication* *was then taking place in Jerusalem. It was winter. And Jesus walked about in the temple area on the Portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long are you going to keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." Jesus answered them, "I told you and you do not believe. The works I do in my Father's name testify to me. But you do not believe, because you are not among my sheep. My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish. No one can take them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one can take them out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one. "(Jn 10,14-18.22-30).* Today this truth seems to have disappeared from the minds and hearts of many of Jesus' disciples. In our faith everything is a gift. Christ is given to us and we give us to Christ, so that Christ may lead us, as good Shepherd, to the springs of the waters of life. Christ Jesus gives the Apostles to us and we give us to the Apostles to be the Apostles, in his name and with his authority, his grace and truth, his Holy Spirit, to lead us to the springs of the waters of life. If the Shepherds do not allow themselves to be given by the Father to Christ is to and do not allow Christ to donate them to us, there is no conduction towards eternal life. But even if we do not allow ourselves to be given by Christ to the Shepherds, there is no conduction to the springs of the waters of eternal life. If the truth of the gift is obscured, our faith is dead.

*When Jesus had said this, he raised his eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come. Give glory to your son, so that your son may glorify you, just as you gave him authority over all people, so that he may give eternal life to all you gave him. Now this is eternal life, that they should know you, the only true God, and the one whom you sent, Jesus Christ. I glorified you on earth by accomplishing the work that you gave me to do. Now glorify me, Father, with you, with the glory that I had with you before the world began. " I revealed your name to those whom you gave me out of the world. They belonged to you, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you gave me is from you, because the words you gave to me I have given to them, and they accepted them and truly understood that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for the ones you have given me, because they are yours, and everything of mine is yours and everything of yours is mine, and I have been glorified in them. the world, but they are in the world, while I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one just as we are.*

The ways of letting oneself be given are established by the Father, through Christ, in the Holy Spirit. Not all are given the same way. Here is what the Apostle Paul teaches: “*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?"(1Cor 12, 27-30).* Each one cannot give himself to his brothers except in the measure of his being a gift made by the Father, in Christ, through the Holy Spirit. Today many of Jesus' disciples live in suffering resulting from their sin. They were not given by the Father and they want to give themselves from their will, their impulses, their desires and even pride. Giving oneself to one's sin is a poisoned gift.

Mother of the Redemption, Angels, Saints, let the Christian give himself from the gift received.