**SATURDAY 05 June – IX WEEK O.T. [B]**

**"Amen, I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury. For they have all contributed from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has contributed all she had, her whole livelihood."**

**The Gospel offered today for our reflection and meditation is made up of two images whose contrast is sharp and very evident.**

**First image, that of the scribes. Their religion is not the worship of God, but of themselves. We can affirm that these people made everything for their ephemeral, mean, insignificant glory: “They like to go around in long robes and accept greetings in the marketplaces, seats of honor in synagogues, and places of honor at banquets.”**

**They deprived God of his throne of glory and have raised their person in his place. But this is only a part of the image. Then there is the second one that is even more disturbing: “They devour the houses of widows and, as a pretext, recite lengthy prayers.” In this second part of the image, there is a very serious sin of injustice committed against the weakest people, since they are alone, without the husband. These weak and lonely people are the widows. It is this sin that reveals that God is absent from their heart.**

**Let us read in the Gospel according to Luke: “I tell you, make friends for yourselves with dishonest wealth, so that when it fails, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings. The person who is trustworthy in very small matters is also trustworthy in great ones; and the person who is dishonest in very small matters is also dishonest in great ones. If, therefore, you are not trustworthy with dishonest wealth, who will trust you with true wealth? If you are not trustworthy with what belongs to another, who will give you what is yours? No servant can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon." The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all these things and sneered at him. And he said to them, "You justify yourselves in the sight of others, but God knows your hearts; for what is of human esteem is an abomination in the sight of God. "The law and the prophets lasted until John; but from then on the kingdom of God is proclaimed, and everyone who enters does so with violence. It is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for the smallest part of a letter of the law to become invalid.”(Lk 16,9-17).**

**Concerning the love for money, here is what the Holy Spirit reveals through the mouth of the Apostle Paul: “Indeed, religion with contentment is a great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, just as we shall not be able to take anything out of it. If we have food and clothing, we shall be content with that. Those who want to be rich are falling into temptation and into a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires, which plunge them into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is the root of all evils, and some people in their desire for it have strayed from the faith and have pierced themselves with many pains. But you, man of God, avoid all this. Instead, pursue righteousness, devotion, faith, love, patience, and gentleness. Compete well for the faith. Lay hold of eternal life, to which you were called when you made the noble confession in the presence of many witnesses. I charge (you) before God, who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus, who gave testimony under Pontius Pilate for the noble confession, to keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearance of our Lord Jesus Christ that the blessed and only ruler will make manifest at the proper time, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, and whom no human being has seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal power. Amen.**

**Tell the rich in the present age not to be proud and not to rely on so uncertain a thing as wealth but rather on God, who richly provides us with all things for our enjoyment. Tell them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous, ready to share, thus accumulating as treasure a good foundation for the future, so as to win the life that is true life. (1Tm 6, 6-19) The religion of scribes is very sad. In this religion, God and man are deprived of their dignity and exploited for the service of a vain, useless glory lasting one only instant, which is shorter than the length of a flash.**

**Let us read the text of Mk 12, 38-44**

**In the course of his teaching he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to go around in long robes and accept greetings in the marketplaces, seats of honor in synagogues, and places of honor at banquets. They devour the houses of widows and, as a pretext, recite lengthy prayers. They will receive a very severe condemnation." He sat down opposite the treasury and observed how the crowd put money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow also came and put in two small coins worth a few cents. Calling his disciples to himself, he said to them, "Amen, I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury. For they have all contributed from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has contributed all she had, her whole livelihood."**

**This woman can throw everything she had to live in the temple treasury since the faith ruling her heart is great. She knows who her God is: the perennial Creator of her life, her uninterrupted Providence. Today the Lord has given her two coins to throw them in the treasury and she obeyed. The coins are not hers, but the Lord’s. In the Holy Spirit dwelling in her heart, she feels moved to obey the heavenly Father and she obeys. Nothing had she earlier. Nothing has she later. Before and after it she has her Creator, her Providence, she has the one who gives the bread to his friend in the sleep: “Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain. In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat— for he grants sleep to those he loves. Children are a heritage from the LORD, offspring a reward from him. Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one’s youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them. They will not be put to shame when they contend with their opponents in court. (Psal 127, 1-5) The poor widow knows that the source of her life is her Father.**

**Jesus is the man that has nothing to offer to the Father. He has only his body. The Father has given it to him so that he may offer it to Him and He gives it entirely, without keeping not even a molecule of thought, of will, of heart, of spirit to himself: “For this reason, when he came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; holocausts and sin offerings you took no delight in. Then I said, 'As is written of me in the scroll, Behold, I come to do your will, O God.'" First he says, "Sacrifices and offerings, holocausts and sin offerings,  you neither desired nor delighted in." These are offered according to the law. Then he says, "Behold, I come to do your will." He takes away the first to establish the second. By this "will," we have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all (Heb 10, 5-10).**

**The Mother of Jesus shall help us so that we also make to God, in Christ, moved by the Holy Spirit, the offer of our body. Amen.**