**MONDAY 07 JUNE – X WEEK O.T. [B]**

**When he saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

**We know what happened on the Mount Horeb, at the time when the Lord stipulated his Covenant with the children of Israel, electing them as his people: Moses himself was told, "Come up to the LORD, you and Aaron, with Nadab, Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel. You shall all worship at some distance, but Moses alone is to come close to the LORD; the others shall not come too near, and the people shall not come up at all with Moses." When Moses came to the people and related all the words and ordinances of the LORD, they all answered with one voice, "We will do everything that the LORD has told us." Moses then wrote down all the words of the LORD and, rising early the next day, he erected at the foot of the mountain an altar and twelve pillars for the twelve tribes of Israel. Then, having sent certain young men of the Israelites to offer holocausts and sacrifice young bulls as peace offerings to the LORD.**

**Moses took half of the blood and put it in large bowls; the other half he splashed on the altar. Taking the book of the covenant, he read it aloud to the people, who answered, "All that the LORD has said, we will heed and do." Then he took the blood and sprinkled it on the people, saying, "This is the blood of the covenant which the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words of his." (Cf. Ex 24, 1-8)**

**This covenant was founded on a law written on tablets of stones. The Lord decides with the prophet Jeremiah to stipulate a New Covenant. This time he would have written the Law in the hearts of the children of his people: “The days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their fathers the day I took them by the hand to lead them forth from the land of Egypt; for they broke my covenant and I had to show myself their master, says the LORD. But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD. I will place my law within them, and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer will they have need to teach their friends and kinsmen how to know the LORD. All, from least to greatest, shall know me, says the LORD, for I will forgive their evildoing and remember their sin no more.” (Jer 31,31-34)**

**Walking up to the mount, Jesus begins the path so that the New Covenant, promised by his Father, may be stipulated, this time not only with the children of Israel, but also with the children of Adam. What is the first truth that must be put in the heart of those who want to stipulate the New Covenant in Christ? The truth is only one: God creates a new nature for all those who accept to stipulate the New Covenant. Here is the old nature according to what the Spirit reveals by mouth of the Apostle Paul. It is a nature generating children: “lawless and unruly, godless and sinful, unholy and profane, those who kill their fathers or mothers, murderers, the unchaste, practicing homosexuals, kidnapers, liars, perjurers.” (1Tm 1,9-10). Here is instead what the heart of the old nature has a lot of according to what the Holy Spirit reveals by the Word of Christ Jesus: “evil thoughts, unchastity, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, licentiousness, envy, blasphemy, arrogance, folly”. (Mk 7,21-22).**

**Here is how those who will allow themselves to create the new nature by the Holy Spirit, by faith in Christ Jesus, shall be: “Poor in spirit, mourn, meek, they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, merciful, clean of heart, peacemakers, persecuted for the sake of righteousness, insulted, persecuted and uttered every kind of evil against you (falsely) because of Christ Jesus”. This new nature will bear a new fruit. Nature and fruit are one only thing, in the same way that tree and fruit are one only thing. If the tree is nature of pure heart, it will always see God. The vision of God is its fruit. If the tree is nature of mercy, it will always be nourished by the Lord’s mercy. New covenant, new being, new life, new fruits. This new tree should perpetually be enlivened by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit creates it in the blood and mercy of Christ, the Holy Spirit always enlivens and renovates it. Whoever separates from the Spirit of the Lord takes his old nature, his old man, again and he will consume his life in vice, in transgression, in sin. He will be a tree producing death. Never might he produce life. Life is produced by the new tree.**

**Let us read the text in Mt 5, 1-12**

**When he saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you (falsely) because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven. Thus they persecuted the prophets who were before you.**

**If the New Covenant consists in the creation of the new nature, of the new man, of the new wineskin, of the new essence, what is the point of the Law written even out of the heart of man, law handed to paper by the Holy Spirit? Law serves as verification. We might always deceive ourselves of being new trees, new nature, while we are actually old trees, old nature. The External Law, that is written on paper, should always verify the nature of our fruits. If they are not conform to what is written on paper, we should be careful: we are or we are already back to being old nature.**

**An example will help us understand: if a calumniated, a persecuted, a mistreated because of the name of Christ Jesus, instead of rejoicing and being glad since great is his reward in heavens, lives as resentful, with the heart full of envy, hate, wickedness, will of evil or even destruction of the other, it is sign that from the new nature he is back to being old nature. It is urgent to take remedial actions. We are not nature according to Christ.**

**Here is how this truth is announced by the Apostle Peter: “For whenever anyone bears the pain of unjust suffering because of consciousness of God, that is a grace. But what credit is there if you are patient when beaten for doing wrong? But if you are patient when you suffer for doing what is good, this is a grace before God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in his footsteps. “He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When he was insulted, he returned no insult; when he suffered, he did not threaten; instead, he handed himself over to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body upon the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you had gone astray like sheep, but you have now returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.” (1Pt 2,19-25).**

**Therefore, eternal Law is not to be subjected to private interpretation. This rule is also valid for the body of Christ, new essence, new nature given to us by the Father in the Holy Spirit. Today many members of the body of Christ are desirous of autonomy, independence, freedom. When is this longing or desire true? When it corresponds to the external Law, given by the Spirit as verification. If the external Law is not respected, the Law the individual gives to himself is false law. It is law of the flesh and not of the Spirit. It is law of sins and not of grace. Law of foolishness and not of wisdom.**

**May the Mother of Wisdom teach us to confirm ourselves by the Law of the Spirit. May She help us not waste our days in vain and sinful desires. It would be the death declaration of our new nature in Christ.**