**WEDNESDAY 09 JUNE – X WEEK O.T. [B]**

**Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do so will be called least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the kingdom of heaven**

**The Law of the Lord, both in the small and great precepts, must be observed with pure consciousness, rather most pure. When is consciousness most pure? When it pays attention so that our action, even good in itself, does not cause any harm to those who are little in faith. The littleness of consciousness of the other becomes a measure of our words and actions.**

**“Now in regard to meat sacrificed to idols: we realize that "all of us have knowledge"; knowledge inflates with pride, but love builds up. If anyone supposes he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. But if one loves God, one is known by him. So about the eating of meat sacrificed to idols: we know that "there is no idol in the world," and that "there is no God but one." Indeed, even though there are so-called gods in heaven and on earth (there are, to be sure, many "gods" and many "lords"), yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom all things are and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things are and through whom we exist.**

**But not all have this knowledge. There are some who have been so used to idolatry up until now that, when they eat meat sacrificed to idols, their conscience, which is weak, is defiled. Now food will not bring us closer to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, nor are we better off if we do. But make sure that this liberty of yours in no way becomes a stumbling block to the weak. If someone sees you, with your knowledge, reclining at table in the temple of an idol, may not his conscience too, weak as it is, be "built up" to eat the meat sacrificed to idols? Thus through your knowledge, the weak person is brought to destruction, the brother for whom Christ died. When you sin in this way against your brothers and wound their consciences, weak as they are, you are sinning against Christ. Therefore, if food causes my brother to sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I may not cause my brother to sin.” (1Cor 8,1-13).**

**The purity of consciousness is not only in doing everything well, but also in not doing a good thing for us, but deleterious for the consciousness of brothers. It is not up to science to dictate our works and words, but up to love, or rather the supreme love toward each one of our brother in faith or of non-faith.**

**Every precept the Apostle Paul donates to the disciples of Christ the Lord in the Holy Spirit must always be lived according to the law of love: “Let love be sincere; hate what is evil, hold on to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; anticipate one another in showing honor. Do not grow slack in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the holy ones, exercise hospitality. Bless those who persecute (you), bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Have the same regard for one another; do not be haughty but associate with the lowly; do not be wise in your own estimation.**

**Do not repay anyone evil for evil; be concerned for what is noble in the sight of all. If possible, on your part, live at peace with all. Beloved, do not look for revenge but leave room for the wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." Rather, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals upon his head." Do not be conquered by evil but conquer evil with good. (Rm 12,9-21). The same gifts of the Holy Spirit must be lived according to the most pure Law of love: “Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, (love) is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. (1Cor 13,4-7).**

**Observing the smallest precepts of the Law is of no use if one does not observe the great ones. Thus, Jesus says to the Pharisees: "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites. You pay tithes of mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier things of the law: judgment and mercy and fidelity. (But) these you should have done, without neglecting the others. Blind guides, who strain out the gnat and swallow the camel! "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites. You cleanse the outside of cup and dish, but inside they are full of plunder and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee, cleanse first the inside of the cup, so that the outside also may be clean. (Mt 23,23-26).**

**Having scruples about having transgressed the promise of a small sacrifice to be made in honour of the Virgin Mary is most holy thing. Every promise made must be observed. But, then, going and committing a horrible sin of abortion and declaring that it is a right, attests that our consciousness is not pure, is not righteous, is not saint neither before God nor before men. The prophet Isaiah precisely complains about this incongruence between what God orders and what man sets out to do: “Merely slaughtering an ox is like slaying a man; sacrificing a lamb, like breaking a dog's neck; Bringing a cereal offering, like offering swine's blood; burning incense, like paying homage to an idol. Since these have chosen their own ways and taken pleasure in their own abominations, I in turn will choose ruthless treatment for them and bring upon them what they fear. Because, when I called, no one answered, when I spoke, no one listened; Because they did what was evil in my sight, and chose what gave me displeasure” (Is 66, 3-4). One cannot substitute the Commandments of the Law of the Lord, and not even the Gospel in its purity of faith and love, with a piece of bread one gives to a brother. To man, Jesus has not given a piece of bread. He has given his Father, the Holy Spirit, his Mother, his body and his blood, the eternal life.**

**Let us read the text of Mt 5,17-19**

**"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. Amen, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter will pass from the law, until all things have taken place. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do so will be called least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”**

**Let us look at what rules of conduct the Apostle Paul gives the Ephesians: “So I declare and testify in the Lord that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds; darkened in understanding, alienated from the life of God because of their ignorance, because of their hardness of heart, they have become callous and have handed themselves over to licentiousness for the practice of every kind of impurity to excess. That is not how you learned Christ, assuming that you have heard of him and were taught in him, as truth is in Jesus, that you should put away the old self of your former way of life, corrupted through deceitful desires, and be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and put on the new self, created in God's way in righteousness and holiness of truth. Therefore, putting away falsehood, speak the truth, each one to his neighbor, for we are members one of another. Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun set on your anger, and do not leave room for the devil. The thief must no longer steal, but rather labor, doing honest work with his (own) hands, so that he may have something to share with one in need. No foul language should come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for needed edification, that it may impart grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the holy Spirit of God, with which you were sealed for the day of redemption. All bitterness, fury, anger, shouting, and reviling must be removed from you, along with all malice. (And) be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving one another as God has forgiven you in Christ. (Eph 4, 17-32). The entire life of the Christian must manifest the beauty of Christ’s life in him. Christ’s life is interwoven with truth, love, prayer, justice, mission.**

**Mother of God, help us. Let every smallest and great precept of the Gospel be observed by us with consciousness rich in faith in truth, love, prayer, justice, mission. Make us without any measure in faith and love for Christ Jesus. We will manifest his beauty to the world in this way.**