**MONDAY 14 JUNE – XI WEEK O.T. [B]**

**"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.'But I say to you, offer no resistance to one who is evil.**

**Lamech brought vengeance beyond any limit. We may say that with him, one cannot speak about vengeance, but pure wickedness and evilness: Lamech said to his wives: "Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; wives of Lamech, listen to my utterance: I have killed a man for wounding me, a boy for bruising me. If Cain is avenged sevenfold, then Lamech seventy-sevenfold." (Gen 4,23-24).**

**In the Law of Sinai, the Lord intervenes and puts a limit to vengeance: never beyond the evil received. With the Sirach, the Lord puts an end to vengeance: “The vengeful will suffer the LORD'S vengeance, for he remembers their sins in detail. Forgive your neighbor's injustice; then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven. Should a man nourish anger against his fellows and expect healing from the LORD? Should a man refuse mercy to his fellows, yet seek pardon for his own sins? If he who is but flesh cherishes wrath, who will forgive his sins? Remember your last days, set enmity aside; remember death and decay, and cease from sin! Think of the commandments, hate not your neighbor; of the Most High's covenant, and overlook faults.” (Sir 28, 1-7) The true worshipper of the God who is the Father of the Lord our Christ Jesus does not even ask for justice. One only word must come out of his mouth: forgiveness.**

**Wonderful example is what David does when he is cursed and reviled. He reads the anathema with supernatural vision and accepts it so that he may grow in humility and meekness of heart: “As David was approaching Bahurim, a man named Shimei, the son of Gera of the same clan as Saul's family, was coming out of the place, cursing as he came. He threw stones at David and at all the king's officers, even though all the soldiers, including the royal guard, were on David's right and on his left. Shimei was saying as he cursed: "Away, away, you murderous and wicked man! The LORD has requited you for all the bloodshed in the family of Saul, in whose stead you became king, and the LORD has given over the kingdom to your son Absalom. And now you suffer ruin because you are a murderer." Abishai, son of Zeruiah, said to the king: "Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Let me go over, please, and lop off his head." But the king replied: "What business is it of mine or of yours, sons of Zeruiah, that he curses? Suppose the LORD has told him to curse David; who then will dare to say, 'Why are you doing this?'" Then the king said to Abishai and to all his servants: "If my own son, who came forth from my loins, is seeking my life, how much more might this Benjaminite do so! Let him alone and let him curse, for the LORD has told him to. Perhaps the LORD will look upon my affliction and make it up to me with benefits for the curses he is uttering this day." David and his men continued on the road, while Shimei kept abreast of them on the hillside, all the while cursing and throwing stones and dirt as he went.The king and all the soldiers with him arrived at the Jordan tired out, and stopped there for a rest. (2Sam 16,5-14). God did not take revenge against David. It is fair that he did not take revenge either. Thinking according to God and thinking according to flesh are not the same thing.**

**Moses, too, shows all his meekness toward his sister Miriam and pleas the Lord so that he forgives her sin: “While they were in Hazeroth, Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses on the pretext of the marriage he had contracted with a Cushite woman. They complained, "Is it through Moses alone that the LORD speaks? Does he not speak through us also?" And the LORD heard this. Now, Moses himself was by far the meekest man on the face of the earth. So at once the LORD said to Moses and Aaron and Miriam, "Come out, you three, to the meeting tent." And the three of them went. Then the LORD came down in the column of cloud, and standing at the entrance of the tent, called Aaron and Miriam. When both came forward, he said, "Now listen to the words of the LORD: Should there be a prophet among you, in visions will I reveal myself to him, in dreams will I speak to him; Not so with my servant Moses! Throughout my house he bears my trust: face to face I speak to him, plainly and not in riddles. The presence of the LORD he beholds. Why, then, did you not fear to speak against my servant Moses?"**

**So angry was the LORD against them that when he departed, and the cloud withdrew from the tent, there was Miriam, a snow-white leper! When Aaron turned and saw her a leper, "Ah, my lord!" he said to Moses, "please do not charge us with the sin that we have foolishly committed! Let her not thus be like the stillborn babe that comes forth from its mother's womb with its flesh half consumed." Then Moses cried to the LORD, "Please, not this! Pray, heal her!" But the LORD answered Moses, "Suppose her father had spit in her face, would she not hide in shame for seven days? Let her be confined outside the camp for seven days; only then may she be brought back." So Miriam was confined outside the camp for seven days, and the people did not start out again until she was brought back. (Num 12, 1-15)**

**Christ Jesus, when his hands and his feet were pierced by nails, did not ask the Father to do justice and not even to avenge his blood. He forgave his executioners and asked the Father forgiveness for them. Thus, he left us the example so that we also desire to behave as he did: with a word of excuse and forgiveness always on the lips and on heart. Then and only then the forgiveness is perfect, when we are free in mind and in heart.**

**Let us read the text of Mt 5,38-42**

**"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.'But I say to you, offer no resistance to one who is evil. When someone strikes you on (your) right cheek, turn the other one to him as well. If anyone wants to go to law with you over your tunic, hand him your cloak as well. Should anyone press you into service for one mile, go with him for two miles. Give to the one who asks of you, and do not turn your back on one who wants to borrow.**

**If we read this text only in the light of moral, it becomes impossible for us to rule the flesh that is always thirsty for justice and vengeance. Instead, if we read it in the light of theology and Christology, everything changes and neither vengeance nor justice will be asked to the Lord. Who is the Christian? He is a person who sold his life to Christ Jesus at the price of eternal life. It is an exchange highly to our benefit, at our summit benefit. Jesus, too, sold life to his Father at the price of his eternal glory. As Christ Jesus’s life was consumed in such a great love to become crucified love, so also the life of Christian must be consumed in such a great love to become crucified love. The relationship is no longer between the Christian and every other man, but only between the Christian and Jesus the Lord. If the Lord of Christian’s life is Christ – as the Father is the Lord of Christ Jesus’s life – then it is up to Christ Jesus to be concerned with the life of Christian. Where He leads it, it shall let itself be led. Where He wants it to be, the Christian must let this happen.**

**Here is the reason why without a highly theological and Christological vision of our life, we precipitate in the abyss of our humanity, always led and guided by flesh. The relationships with men will no longer by the gift made to Christ the Lord. By flesh, they will be of vengeance, summary justice, hate, overbearingness, arrogance, calumny, false witness, injustice without any number, every kind of evil. Here is why we all should be daily educated to have a high theological and Christological vision. Even one only thought or a temporary desire of evil against one brother attests that we do not still think and act and desire according to Christ Jesus’s heart. Our mind is not of the thought of Christ the Lord, but it is immersed in the sin that we have not defeated in each of its manifestation yet.**

**Mother of God, Most Pure Virgin, Most Holy Woman, help us achieve your purity and holiness. Sin does not belong to your children. Amen.**