**TUESDAY 15 JUNE – XI WEEK O.T. [B]**

**"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you**

**This rule - 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' - is not a rule that we find in the Revelation of the Old Testament. Instead, it is a human origin norm, not divine. “If your enemy be hungry, give him food to eat, if he be thirsty, give him to drink; For live coals you will heap on his head, and the LORD will vindicate you.” (Pro 25,21-22). This rule is assumed by the Apostle Paul and reminded in the Letters to Romans: 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, 14-21) Rule that should not be forgotten by the Christian, too many times, he too, thirsty of justice or of vengeance against those who caused a bad thing or some damage.**

**Jesus enlightens his words towards the enemies telling the Parable of the Good Samaritan: “There was a scholar of the law who stood up to test him and said, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read it?" He said in reply, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself."He replied to him, "You have answered correctly; do this and you will live." But because he wished to justify himself, he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"Jesus replied, "A man fell victim to robbers as he went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. They stripped and beat him and went off leaving him half-dead. A priest happened to be going down that road, but when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. Likewise a Levite came to the place, and when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight. He approached the victim, poured oil and wine over his wounds and bandaged them. Then he lifted him up on his own animal, took him to an inn and cared for him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper with the instruction, 'Take care of him. If you spend more than what I have given you, I shall repay you on my way back.' Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the robbers' victim?" He answered, "The one who treated him with mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise." (Lk 10, 25-37) The Samaritan who passes is an enemy. Before the need to love, there are no enemies. There are only people who are in need. If we want to love according to truth, we must see men with the same eyes as God: people to love with his eternal love as He loves every man with his eternal love.**

**Jesus does not speak to the rich so that he loves the poor, to those who own so that they love the ones who do not own, to the one who has much so that he gives to the one who has little. This is not Jesus’s thought and not even his Law. Jesus speaks to man. To man, does he commands to love everyone, to do the good to everyone, without any distinction. The Gospel is for the poor and for the rich, for the saint and the sinner, for the just and for the one who is not just, for the erudite and the simple, for the hirer and for every worker. Every man is man if he lives this universal law of love. God is love and every man must be among the other men true image of the love of his Lord, Creator, God.**

**It is not up to man to establish the rules of true love. They are given by God. Without obedience to every divine rule, true love might never exist. Now the very first Law of Love is the obedience to the Ten Commandments. Whoever transgresses the Commandments might never say to love. One does not love by killing. One does not love in the divorce. One does not love in the theft. One does not love in the false witness. One does not love in the idolatry. One does not love in the despise of the name of our God, Lord, Creator. One does not love if our obedience is not to all the Ten Word of the Holy Law that is Universal Law, Law to which everyone is obliged. The Ten Words must be observed according to the fulfilment Jesus gave them, fulfilment that is in all manifested in the Sermon of the Mount.**

**The second Law of love – the Commandments are most pure love of justice – is the Law of charity, of the gift. One loves sharing the many goods the Lord bestowed on us, both material goods and spiritual goods. Without the sharing of goods there might never be love. The non-sharing is selfishness. One has little, one shares little. One has much, one shares much. Here is how Job manifests his love always lives in the righteousness, examining his consciousness before the Lord: If I have made an agreement with my eyes and entertained any thoughts against a maiden… If I have walked in falsehood and my foot has hastened to deceit; If my steps have turned out of the way, and my heart has followed my eyes, or any stain clings to my hands… If my heart has been enticed toward a woman, and I have lain in wait at my neighbor's door… Had I refused justice to my manservant or to my maid, when they had a claim against me… If I have denied anything to the poor, or allowed the eyes of the widow to languish While I ate my portion alone, with no share in it for the fatherless… If I have raised my hand against the innocent, Had I put my trust in gold or called fine gold my security… Or had I rejoiced that my wealth was great, or that my hand had acquired abundance -  Had I rejoiced at the destruction of my enemy or exulted when evil fell upon him, Even though I had not suffered my mouth to sin by uttering a curse against his life - Had not the men of my tent exclaimed, "Who has not been fed with his meat!" Because no stranger lodged in the street, but I opened my door to wayfarers – (cf. Jb 31, 1-37) Job is perfect in love.**

**Let us read the text of Mt 5, 43-48**

**"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father, for he makes his sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what recompense will you have? Do not the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brothers only, what is unusual about that? Do not the pagans do the same? So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect.**

**Today man wants to love, but writing the laws of love on his own. These laws that man writes day after day are the total negation of the Law of the Lord, both Law of justice and Law of charity and mercy. Hence, they are Laws of selfishness, written by those who hate the Lord, Creator, God, issued by those who say to the Lord: “I will not serve you. I will not hear you. I will live by m will. Love is what I say, not what you say. I am the lord of my life”.**

**Without the observance of the divine Universal Law given by our God, the love of man toward another man is always poisoned of death. It is not a love that gives. It is instead a love bestowing every death, death both spiritual and corporal, both of the individual and of the entire humankind. Jesus preaches the true love since he preaches the true Law of his Father. Without the preaching of the Law, love is always not true love.**

**Mother of God, let every Christian love by the Law of his Lord.**