**FRIDAY JUNE 18 – XI WEEK O.T. [B]**

**But store up treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor decay destroys, nor thieves break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.**

**The teaching of Jesus about the riches of this world gives fulfilment of revelation and truth to everything that was previously revealed by the Holy Spirit of the Ancient Scriptures. Here are some of these teachings: “Wealth is good when there is no sin; but poverty is evil by the standards of the proud.” (Sir 13,24). “For the sake of profit many sin, and the struggle for wealth blinds the eyes. Like a peg driven between fitted stones, between buying and selling sin is wedged in. Unless you earnestly hold fast to the fear of the LORD, suddenly your house will be thrown down.” (Sir 27, 1-3) “More precious than gold is health and well-being, contentment of spirit than coral. No treasure greater than a healthy body; no happiness, than a joyful heart! (Sir 30,15-16). “Keeping watch over riches wastes the flesh, and the care of wealth drives away rest. Concern for one's livelihood banishes slumber; more than a serious illness it disturbs repose. The rich man labors to pile up wealth, and his only rest is wanton pleasure; The poor man toils for a meager subsistence, and if ever he rests, he finds himself in want. The lover of gold will not be free from sin, for he who pursues wealth is led astray by it. Many have been ensnared by gold, though destruction lay before their eyes; It is a stumbling block to those who are avid for it, a snare for every fool. Happy the rich man found without fault, who turns not aside after gain! Who is he, that we may praise him? he, of all his kindred, has done wonders, For he has been tested by gold and come off safe, and this remains his glory; He could have sinned but did not, could have done evil but would not, So that his possessions are secure, and the assembly recounts his praises.(Sir 31, 1-11)**

**When the wedding celebration came to an end, Tobit called his son Tobiah and said to him, "Son, see to it that you give what is due to the man who made the journey with you; give him a bonus too." Tobiah said: "Father, how much shall I pay him? It would not hurt me at all to give him half of all the wealth he brought back with me. He led me back safe and sound; he cured my wife; he brought the money back with me; and he cured you. How much of a bonus should I give him?" Tobit answered, "It is only fair, son, that he should receive half of all that he brought back." So Tobiah called Raphael and said, "Take as your wages half of all that you have brought back, and go in peace." Raphael called the two men aside privately and said to them: "Thank God! Give him the praise and the glory. Before all the living, acknowledge the many good things he has done for you, by blessing and extolling his name in song. Before all men, honor and proclaim God's deeds, and do not be slack in praising him. A king's secret it is prudent to keep, but the works of God are to be declared and made known. Praise them with due honor. Do good, and evil will not find its way to you. Prayer and fasting are good, but better than either is almsgiving accompanied by righteousness. A little with righteousness is better than abundance with wickedness. It is better to give alms than to store up gold; for almsgiving saves one from death and expiates every sin. Those who regularly give alms shall enjoy a full life; but those habitually guilty of sin are their own worst enemies. (Tb 12, 1-10)**

**Jesus teaches that the riches given to the poor are the keys opening the door of blessed eternity: 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. (Lk 16, 9-15)**

**The Apostle Paul, too, donates this truth to Timothy so that he teaches it to the riches of this world: “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.” (1 Tm6, 17-19)**

**It is evident that without a most pure faith in the mystery of eternal salvation, one will always think by immanence and selfishness. Today who cares about availing of riches or of the goods of this world to obtain the key that will open the eternal dwelling to him? Is one not saying that salvation is for everyone, independently by the works one accomplishes? Is one not saying that there is no longer any judgement since the Lord will not judge anyone, but he will spread out his mercy? This thought is enough and the entire divine revelation about salvation is reduced to a colossal lie or to a wonderful tale of the pasted times. When we speak about things concerning our faith, being it founded on objective and not subjective truth, we must be very careful not to deprive faith of any objective truth, otherwise his entire building will fall down and the ruin will be great. One only truth deprived and everything is reduced to a lie.**

**LET US READ THE TEXT OF Mt 6,19-23**

**"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and decay destroy, and thieves break in and steal. But store up treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor decay destroys, nor thieves break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be. "The lamp of the body is the eye. If your eye is sound, your whole body will be filled with light; but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be in darkness. And if the light in you is darkness, how great will the darkness be.**

**In the Gospel according to Matthew, however, a truth should lead us to reflect. This truth might be so announced: What man accumulates, will be prey of thieves and robbers. Today to the theft and to the stealing of time we have added all the cybernetic and telematics science, all those modern discoveries of subtle, invisible deceit. It is not the thief or the robber to come to our house. It is we, instead, who bring to the thief and robber our savings and our riches. This substantial modification in the theft and in the robbery tells us that the word of the Lord is infallibly fulfilled. Today it is not only the thieves who accomplish it, it is we who give it full accomplishment for our foolishness and silliness. Love for gold makes us ignorant, silly, blind.**

**Jesus also teaches us to look at everything of this world with pure eye. When one looks with impure eye, impure desire springs up in us and then what reveals the apostle James is fulfilled: “Where do the wars and where do the conflicts among you come from? Is it not from your passions that make war within your members? You covet but do not possess. You kill and envy but you cannot obtain; you fight and wage war. You do not possess because you do not ask. You ask but do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. Adulterers! Do you not know that to be a lover of the world means enmity with God? Therefore, whoever wants to be a lover of the world makes himself an enemy of God.” (Jm 4, 1-4) And also: Come now, you rich, weep and wail over your impending miseries. Your wealth has rotted away, your clothes have become moth-eaten, your gold and silver have corroded, and that corrosion will be a testimony against you; it will devour your flesh like a fire. You have stored up treasure for the last days. Behold, the wages you withheld from the workers who harvested your fields are crying aloud, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. You have lived on earth in luxury and pleasure; you have fattened your hearts for the day of slaughter. You have condemned; you have murdered the righteous one; he offers you no resistance. (Jm 5, 1-6) Everything is by the rule of eyes. Mother of God, help us. We want to look at things with most pure eyes of heaven. Amen.**