**MONDAY 21 JUNE – XII WEEK O.T. [B]**

**SAINT ALOYSIUS GONZAGA**

**"Stop judging, that you may not be judged. For as you judge, so will you be judged, and the measure with which you measure will be measured out to you.**

**It is urgent to make a distinction between judgement and discernment. Discernment is a work of wisdom, of intelligence, of the science of the Holy Spirit in us to separate with a straight cut good from evil, darkness from light, justice and injustice, equity and iniquity. However, everything must be done by the unique and universal measure that is the Word of the Lord, but not according to an imagined Word, but according to the Word that has been written on the two tablets of stone and on papyrus, too, on parchment, on paper. Here is the command given by the Lord to his priests: The LORD said to Aaron, "When you are to go to the meeting tent, you and your sons are forbidden under pain of death, by a perpetual ordinance throughout your generations, to drink any wine or strong drink. You must be able to distinguish between what is sacred and what is profane, between what is clean and what is unclean; you must teach the Israelites all the laws that the LORD has given them through Moses."(Lev 10, 8-11)**

**Who is charged to discernment within the Church – every Christian is obliged to discernment for himself and others in relation to the ministry he exercises and that was given to him by the Holy Spirit – must exercise it with great impartiality and science and perfect knowledge, otherwise he takes responsibility of every sin that the lack of discernment lets it to be committed. Thus the Lord to Levi’s children: “And now, O priests, this commandment is for you: If you do not listen, And if you do not lay it to heart, to give glory to my name, says the LORD of hosts, I will send a curse upon you and of your blessing I will make a curse. Yes, I have already cursed it, because you do not lay it to heart. Lo, I will deprive you of the shoulder and I will strew dung in your faces, The dung of your feasts, and you will be carried off with it. Then you will know that I sent you this commandment because I have a covenant with Levi, says the LORD of hosts. My covenant with him was one of life and peace; fear I put in him, and he feared me, and stood in awe of my name. True doctrine was in his mouth, and no dishonesty was found upon his lips; He walked with me in integrity and in uprightness, and turned many away from evil. For the lips of the priest are to keep knowledge, and instruction is to be sought from his mouth, because he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts. But you have turned aside from the way, and have caused many to falter by your instruction; You have made void the covenant of Levi, says the LORD of hosts. I, therefore, have made you contemptible and base before all the people, Since you do not keep my ways, but show partiality in your decisions.” (Mal 2, 1-9) These words deserve all our attention, especially in these times when, by now, the greatest confusion between what is judgement and what is instead necessary, indispensable discernment reigns.**

**The distinction between what is will of God and what is not will of God is also subjected to brotherly correction: "If your brother sins (against you), go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won over your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, so that 'every fact may be established on the testimony of two or three witnesses.' If he refuses to listen to them, tell the church. If he refuses to listen even to the church, then treat him as you would a Gentile or a tax collector. Amen, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. (Mt 18, 15-18) Here is how the Apostle Paul corrects a brother who had sinned against him. He had sinned against him, since he had seriously offended the body of Christ, that is his body, namely Paul’s body: “It is widely reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of a kind not found even among pagans - a man living with his father's wife. And you are inflated with pride. Should you not rather have been sorrowful? The one who did this deed should be expelled from your midst. I, for my part, although absent in body but present in spirit, have already, as if present, pronounced judgment on the one who has committed this deed, in the name of (our) Lord Jesus: when you have gathered together and I am with you in spirit with the power of the Lord Jesus, you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, so that his spirit may be saved on the day of the Lord.**

**Your boasting is not appropriate. Do you not know that a little yeast leavens all the dough? Clear out the old yeast, so that you may become a fresh batch of dough, inasmuch as you are unleavened. For our paschal lamb, Christ, has been sacrificed. Therefore let us celebrate the feast, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people, not at all referring to the immoral of this world or the greedy and robbers or idolaters; for you would then have to leave the world. But I now write to you not to associate with anyone named a brother, if he is immoral, greedy, an idolater, a slanderer, a drunkard, or a robber, not even to eat with such a person. For why should I be judging outsiders? Is it not your business to judge those within? God will judge those outside. "Purge the evil person from your midst."(1Cor 5, 1-13)**

**Discernment on the foundation of the Gospel – what you are doing is not according neither to the word and the spirit of the Gospel – is obligation for those who are in charge of ruling the Church of God. Without perfect discernment, the entire community will soon be covered by the darkness of confusion and of personal thought that is used as measure for the individual consciousness and that of others. Who is in charge of discernment must never let himself be influenced by friendships, personal relationships, neither family relationships or of other kind. He must always discern with his consciousness and his heart as before God and his eternal judgement.**

**Judgement is instead putting men’s actions on a scale and defining the degree of guilt, pronouncing a sentence of condemnation. To nobody, is it licit to judge, since nobody knows the heart of another one. Only God knows hearts and only the Lord can judge. Judgement and sentence belong only to Him. “Amen, amen, I say to you, the hour is coming and is now here when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For just as the Father has life in himself, so also he gave to his Son the possession of life in himself. And he gave him power to exercise judgment, because he is the Son of Man. (Jn 5,25-27) The Christian must never judge and condemn since his ministry is of salvation and redemption. He must always prey, instead, for the conversion and forgiveness of sins. Charity must be principle of each of his actions. Truth in charity, charity in truth. Without charity, there can never be truth and without truth there can never be charity. This is the Gospel.**

**LET US READ THE TEXT OF Mt 7,1-5**

**"Stop judging, that you may not be judged. For as you judge, so will you be judged, and the measure with which you measure will be measured out to you. Why do you notice the splinter in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove that splinter from your eye,' while the wooden beam is in your eye? You hypocrite, remove the wooden beam from your eye first; then you will see clearly to remove the splinter from your brother's eye.**

**The Christian is the one who always has his consciousness in the Gospel and before the most pure eyes of his God and Lord in which there is no darkness, but only most pure divine and eternal light. Knowing how long the path to the full achieving of a full and perfect obedience to every Word of the Gospel is, while pleading for grace and light for himself by the Lord his God, he pleads for grace and light for each of his brother. The hypocrite, instead, is the one who considers his person holy and from his apparent holiness stands as judge of his brother. This is the reason why Jesus asks to remove the wooden beam out of our eye and the wooden beam is our hypocrisy consuming in every judgement of condemnation toward our brothers. Whoever knows how long the path toward the perfect obedience is, is always piteous toward his brothers and he always entrusts them to the grace of the Lord. The charity in discernment turns up in accurate and perennial prayer.**

**May the Mother of God always help us live the truth in the charity. Amen.**