**MONDAY JUNE 28 – XIII WEEK O.T. [B]**

**A scribe approached and said to him, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go." Jesus answered him, "Foxes have dens and birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to rest his head."**

**Jesus has put all his life in his Father’s hands, who has always guided and moved it through his Holy Spirit. We may say that Jesus Christ has removed from his heart both the will of the true God and the will of the true man and has given them to the Father. On their place, he has put the will of the Father, whose motion and inspiration did not come from his heart, but from the heart of the Father through the work of his Father. Jesus is full, unconditional, without postils gift for his Father. Here is what both the Psalm and the Letter to Hebrews reveal about Him:**

**“I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry. He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord. Blessed is the man who makes the Lord his trust, who does not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after a lie! You have multiplied, O Lord my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you! I will proclaim and tell of them, yet they are more than can be told. In sacrifice and offering you have not delighted, but you have given me an open ear.** **Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required. Then I said, "Behold, I have come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me: I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart." I have told the glad news of deliverance** **in the great congregation; behold, I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O Lord. I have not hidden your deliverance within my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation; I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness from the great congregation.” (Psal 40, 1-11)**

**“When he came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; holocausts and sin offerings you took no delight in. Then I said, 'As is written of me in the scroll, Behold, I come to do your will, O God.'" First he says, "Sacrifices and offerings, holocausts and sin offerings, you neither desired nor delighted in." These are offered according to the law. Then he says, "Behold, I come to do your will." He takes away the first to establish the second. By this "will," we have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.” (Heb 10, 5-10)**

**The Apostle Paul thus speaks about the obedience of Christ Jesus and his fruits: “Who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Phil 2, 6-11)**

**Today two men – the first one is a scribe, namely a person delved into the Divine Scriptures, the second one is one of his disciple – manifest to Jesus the will to follow him anywhere he goes. He does not deceive, does not delude, does not promise success, does not give eternal glory. He gives himself as unique and only model to follow. As for Christ Jesus the world and every relation with it must be all lived by the will of the Father, so every man desiring to follow him, consecrating his life for the diffusion of his Gospel among populations and nations, among people of any language and tribe, must live every relation with the world only by the will of the Father, always manifested to Him by the Holy Spirit. In order to use a similarity, actually two, which we draw from the Holy Scripture, the consecrated to Christ for the gift of the reign to men, must be like the stone in the bag of David or like the arrows in the quiver of the soldier:**

**“Then, staff in hand, David selected five smooth stones from the wadi and put them in the pocket of his shepherd's bag. With his sling also ready to hand, he approached the Philistine. "Come here to me, and I will leave your flesh for the birds of the air and the beasts of the field." David answered him: "You come against me with sword and spear and scimitar, but I come against you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel that you have insulted. Today the LORD shall deliver you into my hand; I will strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will leave your corpse and the corpses of the Philistine army for the birds of the air and the beasts of the field; thus the whole land shall learn that Israel has a God. All this multitude, too, shall learn that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves. For the battle is the LORD'S, and he shall deliver you into our hands." The Philistine then moved to meet David at close quarters, while David ran quickly toward the battle line in the direction of the Philistine. David put his hand into the bag and took out a stone, hurled it with the sling, and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone embedded itself in his brow, and he fell prostrate on the ground. (Thus David overcame the Philistine with sling and stone; he struck the Philistine mortally, and did it without a sword.) Then David ran and stood over him; with the Philistine's own sword (which he drew from its sheath) he dispatched him and cut off his head. When they saw that their hero was dead, the Philistines took to flight.” (Cf 1Sam 17, 40-51) The stone must be always available for the sling. Never one only instant must it say to his master: “I am not available now”.**

**“Hear me, O coastlands, listen, O distant peoples. The LORD called me from birth, from my mother's womb he gave me my name. He made of me a sharp-edged sword and concealed me in the shadow of his arm. He made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me. You are my servant, he said to me, Israel, through whom I show my glory. Though I thought I had toiled in vain, and for nothing, uselessly, spent my strength, Yet my reward is with the LORD, my recompense is with my God. For now the LORD has spoken who formed me as his servant from the womb, That Jacob may be brought back to him and Israel gathered to him; And I am made glorious in the sight of the LORD, and my God is now my strength! It is too little, he says, for you to be my servant, to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and restore the survivors of Israel; I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.” (Is 49, 1-6) Jesus has never deceived one only man and he will never deceive him in eternity. Whoever wants to follow Him must be available for the Father like the stone in the bag of David.**

**Let us read the text of Mt 8, 19-22**

**When Jesus saw a crowd around him, he gave orders to cross to the other side. A scribe approached and said to him, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go." Jesus answered him, "Foxes have dens and birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to rest his head." Another of (his) disciples said to him, "Lord, let me go first and bury my father." But Jesus answered him, "Follow me, and let the dead bury their dead."**

**Those who consecrate for the service of the reign of God must never keep their own will for them. Either they make themselves stones in the bag of God or arrows in his quiver to be shot, where the Lord wants them to hit, or their sequel is vain. And it is vain when the Lord, even for a few moments, cannot use the stone or the arrows that are consecrated to him, since they are not available for Him.**

**Mother of God, woman entirely consecrated to your Lord, obtain for us every grace so that we have the force to consecrate ourselves to God upon your model.**