**MONDAY SEPTEMBER 20 – XXV WEEK O.T. [B]**

**"No one who lights a lamp conceals it with a vessel or sets it under a bed; rather, he places it on a lampstand so that those who enter may see the light.”**

**Here is what the Holy Scripture teaches us about the Word of God, given to us as a lamp: “Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day. Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your testimonies are my meditation.  I understand more than the aged,****for I keep your precepts. I hold back my feet from every evil way, in order to keep your word. I do not turn aside from your rules, for you have taught me. How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to keep your righteous rules. I am severely afflicted; give me life, O Lord, according to your word! Accept my freewill offerings of praise, O Lord, and teach me your rules. I hold my life in my hand continually, but I do not forget your law.  The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I do not stray from your precepts. Your testimonies are my heritage forever, for they are the joy of my heart.  I incline my heart to perform your statutes forever, to the end.” (Psal. 119, 97-112).**

**“Observe, my son, your father's bidding, and reject not your mother's teaching; Keep them fastened over your heart always, put them around your neck; For the bidding is a lamp, and the teaching a light, and a way to life are the reproofs of discipline; To keep you from your neighbor's wife, from the smooth tongue of the adulteress.” (Pro 6,20-24) The lamp that is lighted up is the Word of God, in the Christian. He becomes light of Christ in the world.** **"You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.” (Mt 5, 13-16)**

**As no one lights a lamp to conceal it with a vessel or under the bed, but on a lampstand, so that the one who enters can see the light, so is the Christian. He must be lighted and put on the lampstand of the world, of history, in the middle of the town, so that everyone who meets him can see the true light and let themselves be enlightened by it, as well. The Christian is the light of the world. He must be seen by the world as enlightened. It is through his light that one can come back to the light of Jesus the Lord. The Christian is the meeting point between Christ and the world. If the Christian hides his light, because he puts it under a bushel of vices or under the bed of sin, the world will always remain in the darkness, since no light shines above it. To the Christian, does one not ask anything but to shine. He will shine with the good works. He will shine by removing vice and sin from his life.**

**Let us read the text of Lk 8,16-18**

**"No one who lights a lamp conceals it with a vessel or sets it under a bed; rather, he places it on a lampstand so that those who enter may see the light. For there is nothing hidden that will not become visible, and nothing secret that will not be known and come to light. Take care, then, how you hear. To anyone who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he seems to have will be taken away."**

**No one should think he could sneak around. No one should think that what he does remains in seclusion. Everything that will not be done remains hidden and in seclusion. Instead what is done, even in the most hidden secret, will always be manifested. What happens in the darkest darkness will always be brought under full light. Jesus does not want hypocrite, false, deceiver, lying disciples who deceive the world. Instead, He wants them to be true, sincere, open, capable of great responsibilities. Above all, He does not want them to live of illusion: that their misdeeds and their sins could remain hidden, in the darkness, in the secret. Everything they will do, will always be knows by everyone. Everyone will know what they are doing. God puts no veil on their sin and no cover over their vices. What will be done in the hiddenness, in the secret, in the darkness will appear in the light the next day. Everyone will know their behaviour. The Christian must be a person who always acts under daylight. He will have to do nothing in the hiddenness.**

**Another mistake the disciple of Jesus must avoid is this: lulling since he received everything from God. Whoever produces the gift of God, putting it to use, will be benefited by God with other spiritual and material gifts, too. Instead, whoever does not put the gift of God to use, whoever lives as an indolent and a slothful even loses what he received. Whoever does not work with profit in the field of God thinks of having some gift, but at the end he realizes he has nothing. Everyone is exhorted by Jesus to always behave as a good field, always producing good fruits for the Lord for the benefit of the entire world. Either the listened Word is put to use, or one will finally find himself without the Word in the heart. Jesus the Lord wants none of his disciple to live with this illusion in the heart: being in the Word, while one is alone without and out the Word. The fructification is the only certainty we have to be with the Word and of the Word ever.**

**The word of God is lamp, which must enlighten every man, so that it sees the light of truth and follows it. But in truth when is the Word of God lamp guiding the steps of man? The Word is lamp when it burns and shines through the life of the Christian. We can compare the Word of God to candlewick of a lamp. The candlewick is the soul of the lamp. Without it the oil does not burn. Without the oil, the candlestick consumes itself in a few instants without making any light. Instead, immersed the candlewick in the oil and drawing and absorbing the oil, it burns, it warms up, it enlightens, it brightens, it sheds light to all those who are in the house. Thus is of the Word of God. It is the candlewick that must absorb from the life of the Christian. By absorbing its vital lymph from the Christian, the Word of God enlightens and warms up, gives brightness and warmth, make everyone be brightened by its light. Today the falsity reigning around the Word of God is precisely this: one wants the light of the word, but without the oil of the Christian. One wants the brightness and the warmth of the Gospel without the Gospel drawing its strength from the life of truth and holiness of the Christian. As Jesus was light of his word and his life was the lamp which burnt and shone before every man, so must it be said of the Christian. He is the lamp that must enlighten the world. Jesus says it: “You are the light of the world.” “You not the word. You give your oil, the oil of your holiness, to the word so that it brightens and enlightens.”**

**The Christian is constituted by Jesus his Word, his truth, his justice, his thought. The Word of the disciple must be true Word of Jesus. Word and disciple must be one only thing. Whoever sees the disciple sees the Word. If the disciple is not light, is not Word, it is sign that he failed not in his mission, but in his nature. He is light by nature. The disciple is light by nature. He is body of Christ, Light of the world. As Christ is Light placed on the lampstick of the cross and as Crucified does He enlighten the entire world, so must the disciple be: light that enlightens the world. Jesus is not the Light of the sole disciples. He is the Light of the world. The disciples are the ones who have let themselves, let themselves be enlightened by his light, becoming light in Him. Thus also the disciple: he is light of the other disciples and of the world. He is not light by nature, but by acquired Christic essence, by participation of the divine nature, that is eternal Light. He is light since he is temple of the Holy Spirit. This nature is what he must enlighten, making a difference with the other nature. May the Mother of God help us in this.**