**MONDAY SEPTEMBER 27 – XXVI WEEK O.T. [B]**

**"Whoever receives this child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me. For the one who is least among all of you is the one who is the greatest."**

**The disciples are still guided and led by flesh. Here is how the Apostle Paul reveals this truth in the First Letter to the Corinthians: “This God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit scrutinizes everything, even the depths of God. Among human beings, who knows what pertains to a person except the spirit of the person that is within? Similarly, no one knows what pertains to God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the things freely given us by God. And we speak about them not with words taught by human wisdom, but with words taught by the Spirit, describing spiritual realities in spiritual terms. Now the natural person does not accept what pertains to the Spirit of God, for to him it is foolishness, and he cannot understand it, because it is judged spiritually. The spiritual person, however, can judge everything but is not subject to judgment by anyone. For "who has known the mind of the Lord, so as to counsel him?" But we have the mind of Christ. (1Cor 2,1-16) Yet, the disciples live according to the wisdom of this world. They argue to know who is the greatest among them in the new kingdom Jesus is about to establish. It is about a human, earthly greatness, of this world: who will be the viceroy, who the prime minister, who the second one and so on. These were their thoughts in this moment. They had nothing else. Jesus thinks and acts ruled by the Holy Spirit that dwells with all his divine truth in his heart. The disciples are without the Holy Spirit and the thought according to men is predominant in them, so predominant, to prevent them not only from understand their Master, but also from listening to Him. Jesus is in the world of the Father. The disciples are in the world of men. An abyss separates them.**

**Jesus cannot let these arguments upset the good progress of his mission. Neither can he allow that his disciples argue for non-existing future things. This is the beauty of the educative method of Jesus: never let vain thoughts be manifested, He immediately intervenes and trace back everything in the purest and holiest truth. Jesus knows what the aims of each of his disciples were. He knows the thought of their heart. It is a thought of a worldly and earthly greatness. That is why he takes a child and puts him close to him. This too is great educative methodology of Jesus: starting with concrete, visible examples, immediately perceivable by mind. Sometimes it is right to avoid abstractions. They are difficult to be understood. Not understood, they leave the heart with no truth. A child, instead, is a concrete, visible person. It is an image one impresses in the heart and in the mind and it also remains there. It hardly disappears. Jesus does not only speaks with the Word. He speaks with the images, with the similitudes, with the parables, with the miracles. He speaks with his cross and speaks with his glorious resurrection. The entire life of Jesus is Word of light and eternal life for the entire humanity.**

**One does not rule in the kingdom of Jesus. One serves. How must one serve? As one serves a child. By putting himself at his total and complete disposal. In the service of the children, the greats make themselves their servant. The greats do everything for the children, especially when they are very little. The child is a person depending in all from the service of the greats. Without the greats, the children have no hope of future. Their future is the service of the greats. What will the greats have to do in the kingdom of Jesus, or of God? They will have to put at the disposal of the children, they will have to receive them in the name of Christ Jesus. In the name of Christ Jesus serving, taking care of them, make themselves little with them and for them. Whoever receives a child in the name of Jesus receives Jesus. Whoever receives Jesus receives the one who sent him, namely the Father of heavens.**

**This is the greatness of the kingdom of Jesus: putting oneself at total service not of this or that other person, but of every man. The service to give is different, though. In the body of Christ Jesus, every child of God has his particular charisma to which obey and one particular mission and ministry to which always pay attention. Then this is the greatness of the kingdom of God: making oneself people who can receive in the name of Christ, namely with his truth and his charity. The one who rules is not the great one in the kingdom of God. Great is the one who makes himself little. Whoever lets himself receive by others as a child. Great is the one who depends in all from others. The one who lets himself be received, loved, served, taken care.**

**It is evident that everyone can be the littlest ones in the kingdom of God. Everyone can be received and everyone can become people who receive. In the kingdom of God, there is no one who is the first one and all the others the second ones. In the kingdom of God, everyone can be the first, everyone the first, on the condition that he becomes the last one of everybody. The same concept of greatness is thus overwhelmed: who is little is great. Whoever lets himself be served and received is great. Whoever is below is great and not whoever is above. The one who serves and not the one who is served is great. In the kingdom of God, everyone can be great, everyone can be the first, since everyone can be the last ones, everyone can be little.**

**Have the disciples understood this teaching? Surely they have not understood it immediately. The truth was written in their heart, though. In due time, they will remember and understand. Jesus always wrote the truth in the heart of the disciples. Once the truth is written, in due time it surely produces every fruit of good and holiness. This is a method extremely efficacious. The missionary of Jesus must write the truth of Christ, he must write Christ Jesus in every heart. Then it will be the Holy Spirit to read what the missionary wrote and make it understandable. If the missionary does no longer write, the Holy Spirit might never read. The more the missionary writes and the more the Spirit of God read and makes one understand.**

**Let us read the text of Lk 9,46-50**

**An argument arose among the disciples about which of them was the greatest. Jesus realized the intention of their hearts and took a child and placed it by his side and said to them, "Whoever receives this child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me. For the one who is least among all of you is the one who is the greatest." Then John said in reply, "Master, we saw someone casting out demons in your name and we tried to prevent him because he does not follow in our company." Jesus said to him, "Do not prevent him, for whoever is not against you is for you."**

**John says to Jesus what they did, if to receive an approval, a confirmation, a ratification: “You did well!” The disciples saw a man who drove out demons in the name of Jesus and they prevented him. They prevented him from doing it. Why did they prevent it to him? Simply because he was not a disciple of Jesus. Can one person, who is not a disciple of Jesus, drive out demons in the name of Jesus? What does Jesus say to John? Why preventing one from making the good in the name of Jesus? If one acts in the name of Jesus and operates the good, he is not surely against them. If he is not against them, he is with them. After all Jesus gives his disciples a great teaching today. One always needs a great discernment: separating the good from evil. One prevents the evil, one forbids it. One cannot be neither prevented not forbidden from any part it comes. If one does the good and he does it in the name of Jesus he might never be against the apostles, he might never be against the disciples of the Lord. He is for Christ Jesus and for the disciples of the Lord. If he is with them, in what capacity can one forbid to do the good? Just because he is not of the entourage of the Apostles? This, too, is a teaching for the future. Tomorrow the Apostles will be spread around the world. They will find people who will do the good, even in the name of Jesus, in the name of the truth. Might one prevent them to do the good? Never. The good must always be encouraged from any part it comes. Rather, it is precise mission of the disciples to encourage the good. Who misses this sound discernment causes great spiritual disasters. May the Mother of God help us understand the Words of his Son.**