**OCTOBER 31 – XXXI SUNDAY O.T. [B]**

**"The first is this: 'Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord alone! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."**

**One of the scribes hears the answers given by Jesus to those who are asking some questions. They are intelligent, wise, clever, of supreme prudence answers. He wants to prove how far the science of Jesus and his knowledge go. Does He really know the Scripture as it appears from the answers? Let us ask him a question and one will know it. If Jesus answers according to truth, then his is true science and knowledge. If it is true science and knowledge, He is a true Teacher. If He is a true teacher, one must listen to him. If one does not listen to him and He is a true Teacher, one deprives himself of his science and knowledge. No true Teacher will despise another true Teacher. The false teacher will always despise the true Teacher. The true Teacher will always use his science and knowledge to enlighten every man. The true Teacher loves by teaching; he serves by giving his true science.**

**Jesus’s reply is immediate. It is drawn from the Deuteronomy. Jesus adds nothing and takes away nothing to the Command of his Father given by the mean of Moses. He repeats it literally. In the same context, God prohibited to add and to take away. One starts from the truth of God. Let us observe the letter of the reply: 'Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord alone!”: Hear, O Christian! The Lord our God is the only Lord. Who is our God? He is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, He, too, Lord. We can affirm that today the Christian is without the first Commandment. Since he is without the first he is also without the other one. One cannot have the other ones if one does not have the first. The others are the fruit of the first. You, Israel, will love our God who is the only Lord, our Lord who is our unique Lord, with all your heart and with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. But what does it mean to love? Loving, in the biblical context from which the reply is taken from, has one only meaning: to obey. You, Israel, will obey your God, by putting into practice each of his commandment, each of his word, each of his statute. In order that no one was dragged to think other things, Moses, on order from the Lord, first says what the Commandments are and then he invites Israel to love, to obey, to hear, to put into practice every will of the Lord. No one must forget it. In the context of Jesus’s reply, loving is not an empty feeling and not even going to God with modalities chosen by one’s own heart. Loving is full obedience to each Word coming out the mouth of God. The Lord is only one. The God of Israel. The Lord is only one. The Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Other Gods and other Lord do not exist. We must listen to his Word. One owes every obedience to it. One loves by obeying. If one does noto bey each of his Word, one does not love.**

**To the first Commandment dealing with God and in which there are all commandments concerning man, Jesus also adds the second one: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' How does everyone love himself in fullness of truth? One loves him once again by obeying his God, loving his God. His God is the one who dictates every rule of love. Here is why there is no other greater commandment of these ones, since in these two commandments there is the entire Word of God. Even the commandment of the love of the neighbour is given by God in the Books of Law, of Prophets, of Psalms. In them, every rule, every norm of the true love toward the neighbour is established. They are norms that today are all passed in the Law of Jesus.**

**What is the Word of God? That of Christ Jesus. Whoever wants to love God according to most pure obedience must love according to the Word of Jesus the Lord. However, the truth of the Word is given by the Holy Spirit. If the children of the Church do not confess with all the heart, with all the soul, with all strengths that only the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ is the only God, the only Saviour and Redeemer, they do not love, they might never love.**

**Let us read the text of Mk 12,28b-34**

**One of the scribes, when he came forward and heard them disputing and saw how well he had answered them, asked him, "Which is the first of all the commandments?" Jesus replied, "The first is this: 'Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord alone! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." The scribe said to him, "Well said, teacher. You are right in saying, 'He is One and there is no other than he.' And 'to love him with all your heart, with all your understanding, with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself' is worth more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices." And when Jesus saw that (he) answered with understanding, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And no one dared to ask him any more questions.**

**The scribes confirms that Jesus has well taught the truth. He is an excellent Teacher. "Well said, teacher. You are right in saying, 'He is One and there is no other than he.' Truth of yesterday, of today, of all time. No God can auto-create, auto-generate, no God other than the God of Israel existed before and no God exists today or will exist tomorrow. Whoever creates other gods is only man. But the gods created by man are idols. We must cry it out with all the energy coming from the Holy Spirit: the unique God created by the Christians is an idol. He is a God fruit of their thoughts. The only unique true God is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Other ones do not exist.**

**Now the scribes also adds the prophet Hosea. But Jesus had already remembered the prophet Hosea in other circumstances. Here are the exact words of the prophet: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' A sacrifice without obedience is of no use. “And 'to love him with all your heart, with all your understanding, with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself' is worth more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices." For supreme prudence, Jesus literally refers to the Deuteronomy. The scribes makes some little adjustment. He substitutes mind with intelligence. He adds the prophet Hosea. We might think that he does not want to look bad before those who are present. He is a scribe and he must attest to be it. Of course, the scribes cannot be any different. This is why he does his best to show his skill in the knowledge of the Law of the Lord. He is a scribe and he cannot avoid knowing the Scripture. Jesus is a teacher. But he does not want to be less Teacher than Jesus.**

**Jesus sees that he replied with wisdom and dismisses him like this: "You are not far from the kingdom of God." Is it enough to live what you teach and you are kingdom of God? Surely not. Then what does Jesus want to say to the scribe with these words? These two commandments approach you to the kingdom of God, but you are not the kingdom of God yet. The kingdom of God is Christ Jesus and one builds the kingdom of God in Him, with Him, for Him. Loving God with all the heart is loving the Deed of God, the Gift of God. Deed and Gift of God is Him, Christ Jesus. If the scribe receive Christ, Deed and Gift of God for his eternal salvation, He will be true kingdom of God, otherwise one approaches the kingdom, but he is not kingdom, he might never be it. God has established in his eternal mystery that whoever wants to love Him with all the heart, with all the mind, with all the strength will have to love him in Christ, with Christ, for Christ, in the light of most pure truth of the Holy Spirit. Whoever excludes Christ Jesus might never love the Father according to the will of the Father. He will love him of a non-full, non-true, non-perfect love. Either one will love him at all since he is deprived of the strength he draws from Christ through the work of the Holy Spirit according to his divine truth.**

**From that moment on, no one dared to ask him any more questions. Jesus is true Teacher. Not only is He a true Teacher, no one is above Him. No one may have such wisdom to entangle him in any of his Word. Since it is attested that He is invincible in his science and wisdom, everyone abstain of question him. We can say that with the certification of the scribe declaring him true Teacher, in Israel, the public life of Christ the Lord ends or if one prefers the dialogue between Jesus and the scribes, the Pharisees, the chief priests ends. Mother of God, teach us to love in truth.**