**MONDAY NOVEMBER 15 – XXXIII WEEK O.T. [B]**

**Hearing a crowd going by, he inquired what was happening. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." He shouted, "Jesus, Son of David, have pity on me!"**

**Now Jerusalem is near. We are already close to Jericho. Only the last way remains to be done. “As he approached Jericho a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging.” Those who are on the way always recognizes everything of everyone. Everyone who passes says a word. Gathering all the words listened there is a well-formed narration at the end. If the blind had been deaf, too, would have been different. In this case, there would be the complete darkness. For every little thing the Lord grants, we must always bless, thank, praise, magnify and celebrate Him. Instead, we always look at what is lacking in us. We never think about what we have. One only gift of God is infinite richness. Eternal truth.**

**Now all the greatness of the gift of the listening is manifested. Jesus does not pass alone. There is a numerous crowd with Him. Everyone is going to Jerusalem for the Passover. He listens and He knows that what is happening is far beyond what usually happens. Surely, it is an extraordinary, exceptional event. This thought prompts Him to ask. He wants to know. He knows through the listening. Here is the greatness of the gift of God. The knowledge through the means of the eyes has been denied to Him. He does not see. However, the knowledge through the listening has been kept to him. He can ask, He can listen, He can enter the mystery of history.**

**The blind man asks and he immediately receives the answer: “They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." Maybe for someone among us, the news would have been just another one, one as other thousands ones. But not for the blind man. He immediately digs into his memory. He links this event to what he has previously heard by others who passed before his position and he is well aware of whom is passing. His salvation is passing before him. Today He is passing. Tomorrow He will not pass. Will it be another time? Today grace is before him. Will the Lord send it again tomorrow? Here is the great teaching the blind man gives: if the Lord passes today, one must live his coming today. There is no tomorrow. Today the Lord is passing. Today the Lord is talking. Today the Lord is showing himself. Will He come back tomorrow? We do not know. Here is the invitation the Letter to the Hebrews addresses to the Christians of the first hour on the foundation of the Psalm: “Therefore, as the holy Spirit says: "Oh, that today you would hear his voice, 'Harden not your hearts as at the rebellion in the day of testing in the desert, where your ancestors tested and tried me and saw my works for forty years. Because of this I was provoked with that generation and I said, "They have always been of erring heart, and they do not know my ways." As I swore in my wrath, "They shall not enter into my rest."' (Heb 3, 7-11) Hearing tomorrow is a loss of grace yet.**

**Today the grace of God is passing and today it must be caught entirely. He shouted, "Jesus, Son of David, have pity on me!" Jesus is the Son of David. The Son of David is the Messiah of God, his Christ. Why does the Son of David come? He comes to give the sight to blind men. Since He is blind, piety is due to him. According to the prophecy of Isaiah, he will have to healed, cured from his infirmity. He is not asking strange things, beyond the mission of Christ. He is asking in the respect of the mission of the Lord. If Jesus passed over, He would attest not to be the Christ of God. Since He is the true Christ of God, He cannot pass over. He must grant him the grace for justice, for fulfilling of his mission, for obedience to his Father.**

**Let us read the text of Lk 18,35-43**

**Now as he approached Jericho a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging, and hearing a crowd going by, he inquired what was happening. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." He shouted, "Jesus, Son of David, have pity on me!" The people walking in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent, but he kept calling out all the more, "Son of David, have pity on me!" Then Jesus stopped and ordered that he be brought to him; and when he came near, Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He replied, "Lord, please let me see." Jesus told him, "Have sight; your faith has saved you." He immediately received his sight and followed him, giving glory to God. When they saw this, all the people gave praise to God.**

**Humankind reveals itself in its selfishness and its insensibility. “The people walking in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent.” What is the reason why the blind man has to be silent? Why can he not ask for piety to Jesus? They should have been the ones to hold the blind man by hand and accompany him before Jesus. They should have been the ones to ask for the grace of healing. It is difficult for the one who is fine, when he is in the blindness of the spirit, to understand who is sick. The blind man does not listen to their rebuke. He is blind and he keeps calling out all the more: "Son of David, have pity on me!" The grace is passing before him now. He must shout now. It will be too late in few minutes. Jesus is far and He might not listen.**

**So, Jesus stops and orders he be brought to Him. When man shouts and Jesus listens, then He is the one who holds history in his hands. With Jesus, grace is always perfect, never imperfect, never in half or insufficient. This truth must be put into heart. When one invokes Jesus or asks for a grace to Him, we must know that He is always moved by the Holy Spirit and the Spirit only wishes our greatest good. This faith must be put into heart. The order of Jesus is immediately carried out. In the order given, Jesus reveals to be as the Lord. He is the Son of David and He is the Lord. Now the blind man is close to Jesus, before Him. Before the miracle, Jesus ask him a question.**

**Jesus asks: "What do you want me to do for you?" Why this question? Because the request must be explicit, clear, demonstrative of the desired grace. One asks and one receives. He asked for piety. It is a vague request. One must manifest the content of the request to Jesus so that He may reveal his entire omnipotence. He can everything. Every grace is placed in his hands. Not only is He the Son of David. He is also the Might One Lord. The blind replies: "Lord, please let me see." He wishes nothing but seeing again. This is his desire and he shouted for this grace. Now both Jesus and all the presents know what the blind man wants Jesus to do for him. Jesus must give him the sight back.**

**The blind man believed, this is why he shouted. This is the reason why he did not let himself be afraid of those who rebuked him. The true faith is manifested when the entire world says to us to do other things, to change, to think differently and we perseverate against everybody and everything. The one who succumbs to the cries of the others attests not to have true faith. Faith is perseverating until the end. One falls from faith when one begins and then stops, because others say to us to take up other ways. Blessed is the one who believes until the end without deviating neither on the right nor on the left. Faith is obedience. Today the world is rebuking so that we do not shout.**

**Here is what the use of the sight is: following Jesus. “He immediately received his sight and followed him, giving glory to God.” One follows Jesus because He is the source of our truth. One glorifies God because He constituted Jesus as visible source of everything. Not only does the blind man glorify God, but “When they saw this, all the people gave praise to God.” Why does one glorify the Lord? Because every gift of grace, truth, justice, peace fulfilled by Jesus is in Him and for Him gift of the Father. People confess that between Jesus and God there is a bond not only invisible, but also unique. No one in history has never operated, acted, spoken as Jesus has. The difference is not with just one, it is with everyone, with the visible and invisible world. Today this difference between Jesus and every other existing creature, visible and invisible, of the past, of the present of the future must necessarily be put in the heart of all disciples. Without this truth, their discipleship is vain. If Christ Jesus is one as the other ones, what is the use of suffering the martyrdom for Him? What is the use of spreading the faith in Him? It would be just a work of proselytism or of some personal interest. Instead, He alone is. No other one is. Mother of God, help us profess the truth of Jesus against every cry of the world.**