**TUESDAY NOVEMBER 16 – XXXIII WEEK O.T. [B]**

**“When he reached the place, Jesus looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house."**

**Jesus enters the town of Jericho. He is passing by. No will from Him to stop in it is shown by Him. However, we know that his life is entirely in the Holy Spirit. He is always in the listening of the Holy Spirit of God. The Spirit is careful to every smallest variation happening in history. If man does not let himself be moved by Him, the Spirit intervenes on Christ Jesus so that He, too, lets himself be moved. Here is what the Holy Spirit does. Today He uses a man whose name is Zacchaeus. This man is a chief tax collector and he is a wealthy man. The Holy Spirit uses him, He moves so that Christ Jesus manifests to those who follow his way. Christ has not just come to heal from physical illness. He has come to heal the soul and the heart from every invisible evil. The physical miracles are just an example so that his invisible truth is opens. He comes for the salvation of man. Zacchaeus, as tax collector, is excluded by the Pharisees from mercy, from forgiveness. Today the Holy Spirit gives them a great lesson. What man excludes from mercy, the Lord includes it in a wonderful way.**

**The Spirit of the Lord puts a great desire in the heart of this man: seeing Jesus. There is the desire and it is also strong, but there is little or no possibility. He “was seeking to see who Jesus was; but he could not see him because of the crowd.” Why is the crowd an impediment for him? Because he is short in stature. The others are taller than him and create a wall. Even moving by, there is always a person taller than him and his desire is always defeated. However, man has a resource enabling him to find solutions capable to overcome any limit. This resource is intelligence. If then it is enlightened, moved, ruled by the Holy Spirit, then everything is possible.**

**The Spirit inspiring in him the desire to see Jesus, indicates the way as well: climbing a sycamore tree, as He had to pass by there. He would surely have seen Him from the top of the tree. But, in order to listen to the voice of God, one should be free in mind. Then he runs ahead, and in order to see Him, he climbs a sycamore tree since He was about to pass that way. Used the intelligence well, obstacles are overcome. Now his desire can be satisfied. But the Spirit does not only stop at Zacchaeus. Jesus, too, is constantly moved by Him, guided and sustained by Him, led and taken by hand. Seeing Jesus is of no use. It is necessary that Jesus, too, see him. Who is the one who will ensure that Jesus sees Zacchaeus? He, the Spirit of the Lord. Jesus reaches the place where Zacchaeus was on the tree. Jesus looks up and says to him, "Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house." Only the Holy Spirit can create these meetings. No man is able to do such things. There is a great difference between the Holy Spirit and the spirit of evil. The Holy Spirit creates meetings of salvation. The spirit of evil creates meetings for perdition. The redemption is from the Spirit of God, the perdition from the spirit of evil. As the Holy Spirit moved Zacchaeus, so He also moved Christ Jesus. For this motion, heard by Zacchaeus and by Jesus, the salvation can be fulfilled. Jesus must stop at Zacchaeus’s house and he must come down quickly. This is the great miracle of the Spirit, his greatest miracle: putting two souls together, two hearts in dialogue of salvation.**

**Zacchaeus comes down quickly and receives Jesus with joy. The voice of Jesus enters the heart of Zacchaeus and, with the voice of Jesus, he is brought into the heart of the Holy Spirit. One only instant is enough to the Holy Spirit to enlighten a heart. We may affirm that, on the tree, in this meeting between the voice of Jesus and the ear of Zacchaeus, the same mighty deed in the house of Zachary with Elizabeth has been fulfilled, even if with different modalities. The voice of Jesus is the means of the Spirit. The Spirit enters Zacchaeus as Spirit of conversion. Zacchaeus immediately sees the truth of the Holy Spirit, he reads his life under the his light, he converts to the truth. His life changes in one moment. Nothing happens without the Spirit of the Lord. The holier is the bearer of the Spirit and the greater is the conversion that is operated. Jesus is most holy and the Spirit is poured in the heart of Zacchaeus with great power of conversion.**

**Let us read the text of Lk 19,1-10**

**He came to Jericho and intended to pass through the town. Now a man there named Zacchaeus, who was a chief tax collector and also a wealthy man, was seeking to see who Jesus was; but he could not see him because of the crowd, for he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree in order to see Jesus, who was about to pass that way. When he reached the place, Jesus looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house." And he came down quickly and received him with joy. When they all saw this, they began to grumble, saying, "He has gone to stay at the house of a sinner." But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Behold, half of my possessions, Lord, I shall give to the poor, and if I have extorted anything from anyone I shall repay it four times over."  And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house because this man too is a descendant of Abraham. For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost."**

**People see appearances. They do not see the heart of Christ filled with Holy Spirit and not even the heart of Zacchaeus already transformed by the Spirit of conversion. “When they all saw this, they began to grumble, saying, "He has gone to stay at the house of a sinner." When people are without the Spirit of the Lord, they might never think according to truth. The one who is false in the heart is also false in the words. If the heart is polluted, even the words are polluted. Impure heart, impure, unclean words. To see a heart, one needs the eyes of the Holy Spirit. He alone knows what is in each heart. But He alone also converts a heart with his powerful light. However, the Spirit will always have to be brought by the holiness of the person. Zacchaeus stands there and defends Jesus from this defamatory accusation. “But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Behold, half of my possessions, Lord, I shall give to the poor, and if I have extorted anything from anyone I shall repay it four times over." These are words attesting the true conversion of a man. Zacchaeus is not a sinner. No sinner gives half of his possessions to the poor. No sinner is ready to repay four times over, if he has extorted. No sinner is ready to live the entire Word of the Lord in each of its prescription and even beyond the letter itself in one moment. These are the mighty deeds, the miracles of the Holy Spirit. He alone can operate such conversions. The Holy Spirit operates such conversions if the holiness of the one who brings Him is great. Zacchaeus lets himself be poured out by the Spirit brought by Jesus, the Most Holy, and his conversion happens in one moment. Note well: in one moment. One only Word of Jesus was enough.**

**Jesus replies to Zacchaeus: "Today salvation has come to this house because this man too is a descendant of Abraham.” The Father has sent Christ Jesus to preach the year of grace for all children of his people. No one will have to be excluded. In fact, Jesus has never made a distinction between sinner and just, rich and poor, healthy and sick, little and great, friends or enemies, persecuted and supporters, faithful and non-faithful. There is no man whom He had not proclaimed the kingdom of God. Zacchaeus, being a son of Abraham, is entitled to salvation, since it is a gift of the Father to all the children of his people, by old promise. Thus tomorrow, every child of Adam is entitled to salvation by even older promise. The Church should never forget this truth. It is not arbiter regarding salvation. It gives it today, it does not give it tomorrow. Today it is convenient for it to give it, tomorrow it is not convenient to it. Not even the partiality of the gift belongs to the Church. Every man has the right to have the salvation promised to him by his Lord. If it does not give it, it is eternally responsible before God. The other dies for his sin, but the responsibility is of the one who did not proclaim the Gospel. Now Jesus proclaims what his truth is to everyone: “The Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost." Jesus has always taught it. The physician goes to the one who is sick. The healthy does not need him. Jesus, as true physician of the Father, must go to the sinners to proclaim the salvation to them, by preaching the year of grace or of the great mercy. If He did not do it, He would be guilty of serious omissions. May the Mother of God obtain for us the grace of always being in the Holy Spirit.**