**MONDAY NOVEMBER 22 – XXXIV WEEK O.T. [B]**

**"I tell you truly, this poor widow put in more than all the rest; for those others have all made offerings from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has offered her whole livelihood."**

**Jesus is in the temple of Jerusalem, near the treasury. He observes what is happening. The Lord is an attentive observer of every action of men. Nothing escapes his eye, guided and directed by the Holy Spirit. He sees some wealthy people putting their offerings in the treasury. They are wealthy people and their offerings must surely have been substantial, too. If they did not do it for love, they surely did for human respect. They did not want to be second to anyone. The heart of man is often moved by the care of his personal interest, as well. He does things to be seen, admired, estimated and praised by men. It often occurs that wealthy people, before making their offering, show the “cash” to offer, even raising it so that everyone may see it. Arrogance is a “true worm that never dies in the heart of man.”**

**Jesus also sees that a poor widow putting in two small coins in the treasury. If it is materially compared to the offerings of the wealthy men, that of the widow is nothing in the sight of the world. It is nothing in the sight of the world, not surely in the sight of God, in the sight of Christ Jesus who sees everything with the light of the Holy Spirit. Jesus says it to his disciples: “This poor widow put in more than all the rest.” Why has such a poor widow put in more than all the rest? She put in more than all the rest since the “quantity” is not measured in a solely numeral way, but and above all also in a proportional way. Regarding the proportion, the wealthy people put a little of their surplus wealth and not all their surplus wealth, either. This woman, instead, in her misery, put in all that she had to live. To understand the proportional quantity, it is righteous to make an example: a wealthy man having one hundred billion to reach and equal the offering of the widow should have put his money and entrust himself to the Providence of God regarding the future. What does the widow do? She gives everything she has for the treasury. She entrusts her life to the Providence of God. The wealthy man does not deprive himself of anything. The poor widow deprives herself of all things. The wealthy man can live in the luxury and in the vice of ever. The poor widow must continue to live as temperate in each thing. She is lacking in the essential, too. The Lord does not look at the numeral quantity, He looks at the heart. The heart of this poor widow is extraordinarily generous. Seeing things with the eyes of the Holy Spirit or with our eyes of flesh is not the same thing. Truth is always beyond every appearance. But man always sees appearances. God only sees the heart. Jesus has seen the heart of this woman and exalts ita s a generous, faithful heart, capable of every renouncement for the Lord. The woman places herself in God’s hands.**

**Let us read the text of Lk 21,1-4**

**When he looked up he saw some wealthy people putting their offerings into the treasury and he noticed a poor widow putting in two small coins. He said, "I tell you truly, this poor widow put in more than all the rest; for those others have all made offerings from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has offered her whole livelihood."**

**The “numeral” quantity exists, but also the “proportional” quantity exists. We know and we almost always think according to the “numeral” quantity. According t this quantity thousand is more than five, ten, one hundred. According to the “proportional” quantity, instead, one is greater than a million, more than a billion of millions. God never look at the “numeral” quantity, instead, He always sees the “proportional” quantity. The widow in her poorness has given more than the all the rest, since for her the offering has been of a true sacrifice, a deprivation, a true death to her thoughts and to her body. Instead, for the others the offering was of no cost, no deprivation, no sacrifice, no renouncement, no denial of oneself, no abnegation. They offered some of their surplus wealth and they did not even given their entire surplus wealth.**

**The first person who gave the Lord everything he had to live was Abraham. Called by the Lord, he entirely handed over his life into his hands, without living any day for himself. All days were of his God:** “**The LORD said to Abram: "Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk and from your father's house to a land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you. All the communities of the earth shall find blessing in you." Abram went as the LORD directed him.” (Gen 12, 1-4) The highest handover, the highest gift has been fulfilled when the Lord asked him to scarify his loving son, his only child. The Lord asked Abraham to die to his future, to his past and also to his present. He asks him to entirely be in his hands. Abraham denied, annihilated, suppressed himself, he obeyed, he went up to the mountain. “Some time after these events, God put Abraham to the test. He called to him, "Abraham!" "Ready!" he replied. Then God said: "Take your son Isaac, your only one, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him up as a holocaust on a height that I will point out to you." Early the next morning Abraham saddled his donkey, took with him his son Isaac, and two of his servants as well, and with the wood that he had cut for the holocaust, set out for the place of which God had told him.** **When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. Next he tied up his son Isaac, and put him on top of the wood on the altar. Then he reached out and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the LORD'S messenger called to him from heaven, "Abraham, Abraham!" "Yes, Lord," he answered. "Do not lay your hand on the boy," said the messenger. "Do not do the least thing to him. I know now how devoted you are to God, since you did not withhold from me your own beloved son." As Abraham looked about, he spied a ram caught by its horns in the thicket. So he went and took the ram and offered it up as a holocaust in place of his son. Abraham named the site Yahweh-yireh; hence people now say, "On the mountain the LORD will see.** **Again the LORD'S messenger called to Abraham from heaven and said: "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you acted as you did in not withholding from me your beloved son, I will bless you abundantly and make your descendants as countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore; your descendants shall take possession of the gates of their enemies, and in your descendants all the nations of the earth shall find blessing - all this because you obeyed my command.'' Abraham then returned to his servants, and they set out together for Beer-sheba, where Abraham made his home.” (cf. Gen 22, 1-19) When one entirely gives himself to God, God gives everything of himself. It is an exchange. The entire man for the entire God. The entire earth for the entire heaven. The entire time for the blessed eternity. But here we are in the most pure faith, obedience, most pure gift.**

**This poor widow does not make any calculations. She does not count the coins. She does not say: one for the Lord and one for me. She has two and she gives two. Abraham has a son. He has a son, he gives a son. God, too, has one only Son, He give his only Son. God does not make any calculations. Jesus does not make any calculations either. He has one life, He gives one life. He spares himself in nothing. Moreover, He gives his life from the cross, nailed on it. Even the Christian is asked to give his entire life to Christ. He, too, must give it without any calculations. If he calculates, he does not give it. The words of Jesus are of divine clarity: “Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Or what can one give in exchange for his life? For the Son of Man will come with his angels in his Father's glory, and then he will repay everyone according to his conduct.” (Mt 16, 24-27) Jesus has given the life to the Father. Every disciple must give the life to Christ. In this gift, Christ gives his life to the disciple in the same way the Father has given it to him. Gift for gift. Mother of God, help us make our life an offering to God.**