**TUESDAY JANUARY 18 – SECOND WEEK O.T. [C]**

**Then he said to them, "The sabbath was made for man, not man for the sabbath. That is why the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath."**

**When the thought of men takes possess of the Word of the Lord, it is always turned into a word of slavery, making it lose its eternal truth that is of liberation from every captivity of mind and of heart, so that man loves with all the power of truth and of grace the Lord has put in his heart, when creating him, and that he always assists with his divine and eternal charity. What to do so that we do not take possess of the Word of the Lord? There is a very simple rule: obeying each Word the Lord has conveyed to our ear, to our heart, to our soul, to our own body, to our entire nature.**

**Sure, God has always conveyed his Word to our nature, too. He has created it in his image and likeness, in the image of his truth and of charity, of his wisdom and of his intelligence. When one observes a commandment well, he observes it with all his heart and with all his soul, with all his strengths and with all himself, because he wants to please his Lord, the Lord always sends his Holy Spirit, so that He guides him toward the full observance of every other commandment, not an observance according to the heart of man, though, but an observance according to the heart of the Father who has given the commandment.**

**Why has the Lord given the third commandment? Because man could remember two most high truths. Earth is of God and one should always use it according to the will of God. Even animals are of God, and he, too, should use himself according to the will of God. Time is of God, as well, and we should use time, too, according to the will of God. Moreover, man must always put a limit to his concupiscence or to his desire to possess or earn more and more. Man’s life is not by what he produces, it is all, instead, by the providence of his Lord and God. The providence of the Lord will pour on him only if he obeys and until he obeys the word of his Lord, each of his commandment. If he does not obey the Word of the Lord, he can even work from the evening to the morning and from the morning to the evening. Heaven will always be a copper plate and earth will be a sea of bronze. He will consume his energies in vain.**

**The Pharisees do not know the Law of the Lord. They are prisoner of a tradition in which there is no man. There is only a dead tradition that gives death to all those who observe it. Instead, Jesus knows the Word of his Father. This Word has man at its core, at its heart: man to love, man to save, man to redeem, ma to comfort, man to console, man to lead into the Word of the Lord, so that he puts himself at the service of the love of God and of his brothers. The Pharisees cannot tolerate that Jesus edifies the kingdom of life in their kingdom of death that he puts the religion of man into the religion without man and that is why they contrast Him with any defamatory accusation. They do anything to accuse Him of transgression of the Law so that they can stone Him with no judgement.**

**Today they see his disciples who, starving, while picking some heads of grain, they rub them in their hands and then eat the grain of wheat come out. For them this is a most serious violation of the Law of the Sabbath. Here is their accusation: if you, Jesus, were a true Teacher, you would teach your disciples that what they are doing is unlawful on a Sabbath day. People should know that. Thus, they will no longer follow you. Here is their strategy: blackening, despising, calumniating, until attributing his holiest works to a power given to Him by the prince of demons. Strategy of yesterday, strategy of today. When one wants to destroy a person, one blackens him with every calumny and lie. One makes him despicable before the eyes of people. One declares him either Satan or child of Satan. This is a strategy, that has always an appeal to the hearts of the simple and unwary people and to those who have renounced to think since some time, as they are subjected and prisoners of the thoughts of those who have no thought. For these people, truth is falsity and falsity is truth.**

**Let us read the text of Mk 2,23-28**

**As he was passing through a field of grain on the sabbath, his disciples began to make a path while picking the heads of grain. At this the Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they doing what is unlawful on the sabbath?" He said to them, "Have you never read what David did when he was in need and he and his companions were hungry? How he went into the house of God when Abiathar was high priest and ate the bread of offering that only the priests could lawfully eat, and shared it with his companions?" Then he said to them, "The sabbath was made for man, not man for the sabbath. That is why the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath."**

**Jesus reminds the Pharisees that because of hunger the high priest Abiathar gave David and his companions the bread of offering that only the priests could lawfully eat. He also adds that the Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath. The Sabbath is to make the life of man really human, not for his death. Finally, He reminds that He is the Lord of the Sabbath. He has given it and He alone can interpret it. The one who observe the Sabbath is the one who loves man. The one who does not love it does not observe the Sabbath. Mother of God, help us live every commandment by the thought of God, ever.**