**WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 09 – V WEEK O.T. [C]**

**"Are even you likewise without understanding? Do you not realize that everything that goes into a person from outside cannot defile, since it enters not the heart but the stomach and passes out into the latrine?"**

**Before the Lord created man, He has given life to every plant and every animal living in the boundless sky and in the ocean and its abyss and on earth. What did the Lord see after having created each thing? He saw how good it was: “Then God said, "Let the water teem with an abundance of living creatures, and on the earth let birds fly beneath the dome of the sky." And so it happened: God created the great sea monsters and all kinds of swimming creatures with which the water teems, and all kinds of winged birds. God saw how good it was, and God blessed them, saying, "Be fertile, multiply, and fill the water of the seas; and let the birds multiply on the earth." Evening came, and morning followed - the fifth day. Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth all kinds of living creatures: cattle, creeping things, and wild animals of all kinds." And so it happened: God made all kinds of wild animals, all kinds of cattle, and all kinds of creeping things of the earth. God saw how good it was.” (Gen 1, 20-25) Now, if a thing was created as good by the Lord, certainly he might not contaminate it. It is not the thing that contaminates man, but the bad use one does of it. Now, the bad use arises from the evil heart.**

**Is there anything better and holier than man on earth, he that was created in image and after likeness of his Lord and God? Yet, making a bad usage of himself, man almost kills the brother. Here is what Genesis narrates:**

**In the course of time Cain brought an offering to the LORD from the fruit of the soil, while Abel, for his part, brought one of the best firstlings of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not. Cain greatly resented this and was crestfallen. So the LORD said to Cain: "Why are you so resentful and crestfallen? If you do well, you can hold up your head; but if not, sin is a demon lurking at the door: his urge is toward you, yet you can be his master." Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let us go out in the field." When they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him. Then the LORD asked Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" He answered, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?" The LORD then said: "What have you done! Listen: your brother's blood cries out to me from the soil! Therefore you shall be banned from the soil that opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. If you till the soil, it shall no longer give you its produce. You shall become a restless wanderer on the earth." Cain said to the LORD: "My punishment is too great to bear. Since you have now banished me from the soil, and I must avoid your presence and become a restless wanderer on the earth, anyone may kill me at sight." Not so!" the LORD said to him. "If anyone kills Cain, Cain shall be avenged sevenfold." So the LORD put a mark on Cain, lest anyone should kill him at sight. Cain then left the LORD'S presence and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.” (Gen 4, 3-16) Today one often speaks about femicide and one attributes this most serious crime to culture. It is not the culture that bears crime. Cain had no culture in this regard. Crimes are all put into effect by a nature tainted by sin, by a nature that rebelled and rebels against its Lord, God, the Creator. As long as we speak about culture, the murder of human beings might never be avoided. Which culture have we inherited from the past to kill, today, every year, about fifty-six millions of human beings already conceived? Yet, these human beings are killed precisely in the name of a new culture, a culture named progress, right, civilization. If one does not bring back nature in the truth of its origin and it is possible to regain the truth of nature only in Christ, the instinct of sin and of suppression of the human being – of any human being – will never be avoided. One does not rule the instinct of sin through new laws. One rules it through a change of nature: from nature of sin to nature of grace. No one should be scandalised and no one should tear his garments: this new nature is only in Christ. It is only from Christ. It is only for Christ. This new nature is given only to whom lives in Christ, living in his Word, in his Gospel.**

**Let us read the text of Mk 7,14-23**

**He summoned the crowd again and said to them, "Hear me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person; but the things that come out from within are what defile." When he got home away from the crowd his disciples questioned him about the parable. He said to them, "Are even you likewise without understanding? Do you not realize that everything that goes into a person from outside cannot defile, since it enters not the heart but the stomach and passes out into the latrine?" (Thus he declared all foods clean.) "But what comes out of a person, that is what defiles. From within people, from their hearts, come evil thoughts, unchastity, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, licentiousness, envy, blasphemy, arrogance, folly. All these evils come from within and they defile."**

**The Word of Jesus cannot be annulled: murders are the fruits of the evil heart. The evil heart is the fruit of the evil nature. No Law might ever change the evil nature. Christ Jesus and his grace turn the evil nature into good nature. May the Mother of God help us so that every man understands that the evil heart produces evil things.**