**THURSDAY FEBRUARY 10 – V WEEK O.T. [C]**

**"Lord, even the dogs under the table eat the children's scraps." Then he said to her, "For saying this, you may go. The demon has gone out of your daughter." When the woman went home, she found the child lying in bed and the demon gone.**

**The Gospel reveals to us that Jesus has never denied his grace to those who came to Him to receive a miracle. Here is what the Evangelist Matthew refers since the beginning: “He went around all of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and curing every disease and illness among the people. His fame spread to all of Syria, and they brought to him all who were sick with various diseases and racked with pain, those who were possessed, lunatics, and paralytics, and he cured them. And great crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan followed him.” (Mt 4, 23-25)**

**The Holy Spirit that always moves the heart of Christ Jesus wishes to give the entire world an example about the right modality of praying. He wishes hearts that do not give up, that persist in the request, that are also able to offer the Lord the right reasons whereby it is excellent thing that he fulfils the prayer. Before reasons of justice, the Lord would be unrighteous if he did not fulfil the prayer. For the one who approaches the Lord for the prayer, it is valid what teaches the Sirach about the trial: “My son, when you come to serve the LORD, prepare yourself for trials. Be sincere of heart and steadfast, undisturbed in time of adversity. Cling to him, forsake him not; thus will your future be great. Accept whatever befalls you, in crushing misfortune be patient; For in fire gold is tested, and worthy men in the crucible of humiliation. Trust God and he will help you; make straight your ways and hope in him. You who fear the LORD, wait for his mercy, turn not away lest you fall. You who fear the LORD, trust him, and your reward will not be lost. You who fear the LORD, hope for good things, for lasting joy and mercy. Study the generations long past and understand; has anyone hoped in the LORD and been disappointed? Has anyone persevered in his fear and been forsaken? has anyone called upon him and been rebuffed? Compassionate and merciful is the LORD; he forgives sins, he saves in time of trouble.” (Sir 2, 1-11) When the Lord puts our hearts in the melting pot of the trial, it is then that our true faith in Him is manifested. Whoever perseveres in prayer and obedience to his love will certainly be granted by the Lord, then. Why does one speak about obedience to love? Because the Canaanite Woman has an obligation toward the daughter who is tormented by the unclean spirit. Being her a mother, she must love her daughter with the greatest love, and what is the greatest love? Giving the daughter a life with no torment. How might she give her this life with no torment? Turning to the One who can deliver her from the unclean spirit. Having to obey this great law of her nature of mother, she will not certainly leave Christ the Lord, until she will be granted in the request by Him.**

**Let us read the text of Mk 7, 24-30**

**From that place he went off to the district of Tyre. He entered a house and wanted no one to know about it, but he could not escape notice. Soon a woman whose daughter had an unclean spirit heard about him. She came and fell at his feet. The woman was a Greek, a Syrophoenician by birth, and she begged him to drive the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, "Let the children be fed first. For it is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs." She replied and said to him, "Lord, even the dogs under the table eat the children's scraps." Then he said to her, "For saying this, you may go. The demon has gone out of your daughter." When the woman went home, she found the child lying in bed and the demon gone.**

**The obedience to the Law of love demands the sacrifice of all oneself. One must never stop obeying this Law that must always rule God and men. The heavenly Father obeys the Law of his love by loving man with the greatest gift He has: his own Only Begotten Son, the Son of his love. The Only Begotten Son of the Father obeys the Law of love in handing his life over to the cross, in offering his body in sacrifice for the salvation of man. The Holy Spirit obeys the Law of love never stopping to enlighten men with the light of his supernatural and eternal truth. A mother obeys the Law of love by consecrating her entire life to the greatest good of the husband and of children. Certainly, she does not obey with the divorce, with the abortion, with adultery. Thus is for the father of a family. He obeys in pouring all his physical and spiritual sweat for the greatest good of the wife and of children. A ministry of the Lord obeys the Law of love by consecrating all his life, life of his mind, life of his heart, life of his body for the greatest good of the sheepfold. Certainly, the one who is not dedicated to the contemplation of the Word of the Lord, that for a ministry is the bread together the other bread – the Eucharist – with which he has to nourish the sheepfold entrusted to him, does not love the sheepfold. The Canaanite mother obeys the Law of love in grabbing the miracle from Jesus the Lord. If she had not insisted until the gift of the miracle from Jesus, she would not certainly have obeyed the law of love. How does the Mother of Jesus obey the Law of love? Watching over, never closing her eyes, until every sheep of the sheepfold of Christ the Lord does not reach the paradise.**