**WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 23 – VII WEEK O.T. [C]**

**"Do not prevent him. There is no one who performs a mighty deed in my name who can at the same time speak ill of me. For whoever is not against us is for us.”**

**Let us try to apply the law of the war given by God to his people to the Apostle of the Lord, as well. Who is their enemy? Their enemy is whoever harms them, whoever persecutes them, whoever drives them out from their towns, whoever kills them. They will have to guard themselves by these ones. Instead, whoever helps them, whoever gives succours, whoever offers a drink of water, whoever invokes the name of Jesus might never cause them a damage. All of them are like the fruit trees of the countryside around the town they will have to storm with the Gospel to win it from Satan and hand it over to Christ the Lord. Even this passage of the Old Scripture, read under the most pure light of the truth of the Holy Spirit, is useful to acknowledge the mystery of Christ and of his Gospel, so that one may live it in the purity of its truth.**

**"When you go out to war against your enemies and you see horses and chariots and an army greater than your own, do not be afraid of them, for the LORD, your God, who brought you up from the land of Egypt, will be with you. "When you are about to go into battle, the priest shall come forward and say to the soldiers: 'Hear, O Israel! Today you are going into battle against your enemies. Be not weakhearted or afraid; be neither alarmed nor frightened by them. For it is the LORD, your God, who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies and give you victory.' "Then the officials shall say to the soldiers, 'Is there anyone who has built a new house and not yet had the housewarming? Let him return home, lest he die in battle and another dedicate it. Is there anyone who has planted a vineyard and never yet enjoyed its fruits? Let him return home, lest he die in battle and another enjoy its fruits in his stead. Is there anyone who has betrothed a woman and not yet taken her as his wife? Let him return home, lest he die in battle and another take her to wife.' In fine, the officials shall say to the soldiers, 'Is there anyone who is afraid and weakhearted? Let him return home, lest he make his fellows as fainthearted as himself.' "When the officials have finished speaking to the soldiers, military officers shall be appointed over the army. "When you march up to attack a city, first offer it terms of peace. If it agrees to your terms of peace and opens its gates to you, all the people to be found in it shall serve you in forced labor. But if it refuses to make peace with you and instead offers you battle, lay siege to it, and when the LORD, your God, delivers it into your hand, put every male in it to the sword; but the women and children and livestock and all else in it that is worth plundering you may take as your booty, and you may use this plunder of your enemies which the LORD, your God, has given you. "That is how you shall deal with any city at a considerable distance from you, which does not belong to the peoples of this land. But in the cities of those nations which the LORD, your God, is giving you as your heritage, you shall not leave a single soul alive. You must doom them all - the Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites - as the LORD, your God, has commanded you, lest they teach you to make any such abominable offerings as they make to their gods, and you thus sin against the LORD, your God.**

**"When you are at war with a city and have to lay siege to it for a long time before you capture it, you shall not destroy its trees by putting an ax to them. You may eat their fruit, but you must not cut down the trees. After all, are the trees of the field men, that they should be included in your siege? However, those trees which you know are not fruit trees you may destroy, cutting them down to build siegeworks with which to reduce the city that is resisting you.” (Dt 20, 1-20) There is a tree that bears fruit. Are you able to prevent the tree from bearing good fruits just because you have not planted it? If a good man bears good fruit in the garden of the world, the one who has planted is the Holy Spirit. The trees planted by the Spirit of the Lord must never be destroyed. These trees must be planted so that the bear fruits even more better. They must never be uprooted as they are not planted by us or because they are not with us in our garden. Every man of Christ Jesus must always take decisions in the Spirit of Christ Jesus. Never from his heart.**

**Let us read the text of Mk 9,38-40**

**John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone driving out demons in your name, and we tried to prevent him because he does not follow us." Jesus replied, "Do not prevent him. There is no one who performs a mighty deed in my name who can at the same time speak ill of me. For whoever is not against us is for us.**

**The disciple of Jesus is sent by his Teacher in the world. In the world, he will meet many men, many women, many young people, many adults, many children. What will have to be his ministry? It will have to consist of inviting to conversion and to the faith in the Gospel to be baptised in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Then he will have to teach to live the Gospel according to the example Christ the Lord left him. Also, he will have to help every seed of faith that is in every heart, even if the heart has not converted to Christ yet. He will never have to prevent the seed of the good that is in a person from being hindered or even prevented. The gift of Christ and of his grace is the supreme good. However, if one cannot reach this supreme good, one might always work so that the good that is in man is not uprooted. In the meanwhile, the disciple prays so that the Lord may bring the seed of the Gospel in these hearts to maturity. May the Mother of God help us work for the greatest good.**