**27 FEBRUARY – VIII SUNDAY O.T. [C]**

**A good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good, but an evil person out of a store of evil produces evil; for from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks.**

**The heart of man is similar in all to a large basket. We can depict it as the hand that slides into the large basket and takes out what is inside it. If the basket is filled with Christ Jesus, the mouth takes out words about Christ Jesus. Instead, if the basket is filled with other things, it will take out other things. The mouth highlights only what is inside. Let us examine some hearts of the New Testament. Mary of Magdala has the heart filled with Christ Jesus. With Christ Jesus, is her mouth filled: “But Mary stayed outside the tomb weeping. And as she wept, she bent over into the tomb and saw two angels in white sitting there, one at the head and one at the feet where the body of Jesus had been. And they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken my Lord, and I don't know where they laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus there, but did not know it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" She thought it was the gardener and said to him, "Sir, if you carried him away, tell me where you laid him, and I will take him." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni," which means Teacher. Jesus said to her, "Stop holding on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and tell them, 'I am going to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary of Magdala went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and what he told her.” (Jn 20, 11-18)**

**The heart of the Apostle Paul is overflowing with the mystery of Christ the Lord. His mouth always highlights this mystery. Even his desires are all turned into prayer, so that Christ may be known by everyone: “Therefore, I, too, hearing of your faith in the Lord Jesus and of your love for all the holy ones, do not cease giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation resulting in knowledge of him. May the eyes of (your) hearts be enlightened, that you may know what is the hope that belongs to his call, what are the riches of glory in his inheritance among the holy ones, and what is the surpassing greatness of his power for us who believe, in accord with the exercise of his great might.” (Eph 1, 15-19)**

**The Virgin Mary is filled with the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Here is the proclamation that pours out of her mouth: “And Mary said: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior. For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness; behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed. The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is from age to age to those who fear him. He has shown might with his arm, dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart. He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones but lifted up the lowly. The hungry he has filled with good things; the rich he has sent away empty. He has helped Israel his servant, remembering his mercy, according to his promise to our fathers, to Abraham and to his descendants forever." (Lk 1, 46-55) The more the heart is rich in God and the more his mouth speaks about Him. When one does not speak about Him, it is sign that the heart is empty. But if the heart is empty of Christ, it is always empty of the Father and will always be empty of Spirit. It is then that the world takes the place of God and man takes the place of Christ and the things of earth the place of the things of heaven. If the heart if filled with hypocrisy, the entire life of a man is lie, deceit, falsity. Hypocrisy is eternal enemy of truth.**

**Let us read the text of Lk 6,39-45**

**And he told them a parable, "Can a blind person guide a blind person? Will not both fall into a pit? No disciple is superior to the teacher; but when fully trained, every disciple will be like his teacher. Why do you notice the splinter in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own? How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me remove that splinter in your eye,' when you do not even notice the wooden beam in your own eye? You hypocrite! Remove the wooden beam from your eye first; then you will see clearly to remove the splinter in your brother's eye. "A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit. For every tree is known by its own fruit. For people do not pick figs from thornbushes, nor do they gather grapes from brambles. A good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good, but an evil person out of a store of evil produces evil; for from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks.**

**It is easy for every disciple of Jesus to know what is in his heart. It is enough that one examines the words of his mouth. But when is that possible? It is possible if the Holy Spirit is in the heart and it has the full government. Instead, if the heart is filled with sin, hate, wickedness, evil, malice and things like that, being deprived of the Holy Spirit, it is incapable of every discernment. For this heart, evil is good. The more evil is evil and the more it declares it good. One has a relation of truth and of light with God and with the brothers in the measure in which the heart is filled with the Holy Spirit. Without the Spirit of the Lord that rules, every relation is deprived of truth. May the Mother of God help us so that our heart is always filled with Holy Spirit. With Him at the government of the heart, one lives everything from the light of Christ.**