**TUESDAY MARCH 08 – FIRST WEEK OF LENT [C]**

**If you forgive others their transgressions, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your transgressions.**

**Who can pray the Our Father? The one whose God is the Father can pray it. Of whom is God the true Father? Of the one who is true son. Who is the true son of God? The true son is the one who has become one only life with his Son Christ Jesus. One becomes true body of Christ with the baptism. One lives as true children of God guided and led by the Holy Spirit so that all Christ is formed in us and this formation of Christ will be fulfilled only on the last day, when we are turned into light and into spirit even in body, shrouded in the mystery of his glorious resurrection. In time we will be turned into the crucified body of Jesus. In eternity we will be clothed with his body of light and of glory. If true children, we can raise this prayer to God. The more we grow as true children and the more our prayer will be true before God.**

**The first condition so that we can raise this prayer to our Father is the forgiveness and the reconciliation with the brothers. First, our God through the prophet Malachi, and then also Christ Jesus makes the reconciliation a necessary condition to present the offer of our prayer in his presence: “This also you do: the altar of the LORD you cover with tears, weeping and groaning, Because he no longer regards your sacrifice nor accepts it favourably from your hand; And you say, "Why is it?" -  Because the LORD is witness between you and the wife of your youth, With whom you have broken faith though she is your companion, your betrothed wife. Did he not make one being, with flesh and spirit: and what does that one require but godly offspring? You must then safeguard life that is your own, and not break faith with the wife of your youth. For I hate divorce, says the LORD, the God of Israel, And covering one's garment with injustice, says the LORD of hosts; You must then safeguard life that is your own, and not break faith.” (Mal 2, 13-16) "You have heard that it was said to your ancestors, 'You shall not kill; and whoever kills will be liable to judgment.' But I say to you, whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment, and whoever says to his brother, 'Raqa,' will be answerable to the Sanhedrin, and whoever says, 'You fool,' will be liable to fiery Gehenna. Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Settle with your opponent quickly while on the way to court with him. Otherwise your opponent will hand you over to the judge, and the judge will hand you over to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Amen, I say to you, you will not be released until you have paid the last penny.” (Mt 5, 21-26) Without a true, real, effective, perennial reconciliation with the children of the same father, we might never present the offer of our prayer to the Lord. The Lord might never receive it. This offer will never be pleased to Him. The first reconciliation is with one’s own woman and one’s own man.**

**Prayer is the most ecclesial and social work that may exist. In “Our Father” the body of Christ prays for the entire body of Christ, body of Christ taken on with the Incarnation. Jesus has become brother of humanity and the body of Christ prays for the entire humanity. The body of Christ that is his Church prays for the entire body of Christ that is his Church. Now, how can the body of Christ pray for itself and for the body of humanity if it does not live as true body of Christ? First, it is necessary that it is put together in unity and then it might present the offer of its prayer to the Father. We may paraphrase the law of fast in Isaiah with the law of prayer: “Yes, your fast ends in quarreling and fighting, striking with wicked claw. Would that today you might fast so as to make your voice heard on high! Is this the manner of fasting I wish, of keeping a day of penance? Do you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? This, rather, is the fasting that I wish: releasing those bound unjustly, untying the thongs of the yoke; Setting free the oppressed, breaking every yoke.” (cf. Is 58, 4-6) The prayer the Lord pleases is that of heart in which dwell the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, the Virgin Mary with the entire Church that lives of truth, justice, peace, harmony together with the humanity to redeem and to save.**

**Let us read the text Mt 6,7-15**

**In praying, do not babble like the pagans, who think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them. Your Father knows what you need before you ask him. "This is how you are to pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and do not subject us to the final test, but deliver us from the evil one. If you forgive others their transgressions, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your transgressions.**

**Whoever wants to pray according to truth must come before the Lord with the heart of Christ in his heart. Here is why one first puts himself in the grace of God, first one takes on the heart of Christ and of the Virgin Mary and then one goes before the Lord to present the offer of our prayer to Him. Mother of God, teach us to pray with simple and pure heart.**