**THURSDAY MARCH 10 – FIRST WEEK OF LENT [C]**

**"Do to others whatever you would have them do to you. This is the law and the prophets.”**

**Man is ontologically poor. This is his nature. He is made of matter and spirit. Matter finds its nourishment drawing it from earth. Instead, spirit finds it drawing it from God. From earth, he draws it through a wondrous communion in which every other man labours by his sweat. But he draws it from God, too, through a wondrous communion in which everyone puts each of his gift of grace, truth, justice, holiness. But God, as well, in order to work for the greatest good of man regarding both his body and his spirit, works it through a wondrous communion in the Holy Spirit. It is a great injustice to use the fruits produced by the communion of others, by diverting our contribution to the creation of communion and to its own life. Here is how the Apostle Paul describes this wondrous communion within the body of Christ:** “**There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit. To one is given through the Spirit the expression of wisdom; to another the expression of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit; to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit; to another mighty deeds; to another prophecy; to another discernment of spirits; to another varieties of tongues; to another interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit produces all of these, distributing them individually to each person as he wishes. As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.” (1Cor 12, 4-13)**

**In the Letter to the Romans he teaches how one’s own gift is to be lived in the mystery of communion:** “**I urge you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship. Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect. For by the grace given to me I tell everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than one ought to think, but to think soberly, each according to the measure of faith that God has apportioned. For as in one body we have many parts, and all the parts do not have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ and individually parts of one another. Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us exercise them: if prophecy, in proportion to the faith; if ministry, in ministering; if one is a teacher, in teaching; if one exhorts, in exhortation; if one contributes, in generosity; if one is over others, with diligence; if one does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be sincere; hate what is evil, hold on to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; anticipate one another in showing honor. Do not grow slack in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the holy ones, exercise hospitality.” (Rm 12, 1-13) Man’s richness is communion. Out of communion there is no true richness. There might be material richness, but this richness is already death on earth and then in eternity, since it is a richness that does not give life. It is not put at the service of communion. In our most pure faith in Christ, everything is to be put in communion and everything is to be lived by communion. If this does not happen, our faith is vain.**

**Let us read the text of Mt 7,7-12**

**"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. Which one of you would hand his son a stone when he asks for a loaf of bread, or a snake when he asks for a fish? If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good things to those who ask him. "Do to others whatever you would have them do to you. This is the law and the prophets.**

**Who can pray the Father, and who can pray the brothers? Those who put each of their both material and spiritual gift in communion. In our faith, everything is to be lived in communion to create communion. Whoever is not in this communion, even if he prays, his prayer is vain. It is a prayer of selfishness, not of communion, by communion, to create an even stronger communion. Here is how the Apostle James cries out this truth: “What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well," but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it? So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead. Indeed someone might say, "You have faith and I have works." Demonstrate your faith to me without works, and I will demonstrate my faith to you from my works. You believe that God is one. You do well. Even the demons believe that and tremble.” (Jm 2, 14-19)**