**MONDAY MARCH 14 – SECOND WEEK OF LENT [C]**

**Be merciful, just as (also) your Father is merciful.**

**The mercy of the Lord has one only purpose: the redemption and the salvation of every man. Every other mercy is useless, if one then leaves man in sin and in death. The disciples of Jesus must never forget this truth. Here is how the Book of Wisdom tells about the compassion of the Lord in view of the repentance and of the conversion to truth: “For not without means was your almighty hand, that had fashioned the universe from formless matter, to send upon them a drove of bears or fierce lions, Or new-created, wrathful, unknown beasts to breathe forth fiery breath, Or pour out roaring smoke, or flash terrible sparks from their eyes. Not only could these attack and completely destroy them; even their frightful appearance itself could slay. Even without these, they could have been killed at a single blast, pursued by retribution and winnowed out by your mighty spirit; But you have disposed all things by measure and number and weight. For with you great strength abides always; who can resist the might of your arm? Indeed, before you the whole universe is as a grain from a balance, or a drop of morning dew come down upon the earth. But you have mercy on all, because you can do all things; and you overlook the sins of men that they may repent. For you love all things that are and loathe nothing that you have made; for what you hated, you would not have fashioned. And how could a thing remain, unless you willed it; or be preserved, had it not been called forth by you? But you spare all things, because they are yours, O LORD and lover of souls,** **for your imperishable spirit is in all things! Therefore you rebuke offenders little by little, warn them, and remind them of the sins they are committing, that they may abandon their wickedness and believe in you, O LORD!” (Wis 11, 17- 12, 2)**

**In the Gospel according to John, Jesus reveals that the figure of the bronze serpent is fulfilled in Him. The faith in Him, gift of the Father, is what creates the salvation into hearts: “And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life." For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.” (Jn 3, 14-21)**

**Today every member of the body of Christ is a living serpent, gift of the Father to humanity for its salvation. The Father is merciful for He has given us his Son for our salvation. Christ is merciful for He has let himself be given for the salvation of humanity. The disciple of Jesus is as merciful as the Father, as the Son, if in the Father and in the Son, always led and moved by the Holy Spirit, lets himself be given for the salvation of every man. As God has given his Son for us who were impious, so every disciple of Jesus must let himself be given not for the righteous, but for the impious, for those who are distant from God and from the source of salvation who is Jesus the Lord. Here is what we read in the Letter to the Romans: “For Christ, while we were still helpless, yet died at the appointed time for the ungodly. Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. How much more then, since we are now justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath. Indeed, if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more, once reconciled, will we be saved by his life. Not only that, but we also boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.” (Rm 5, 6-11) Without the offer of our life to the Father, in Christ, in the Holy Spirit, the salvation of Christ is not fulfilled and man remains in his impiety. Instead, the Christian gives himself in sacrifice to the Father and many hearts are attracted to Christ through his offer.**

**Let us read the text of Lk 6,36-38**

**Be merciful, just as (also) your Father is merciful. "Stop judging and you will not be judged. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven. Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you."**

**The disciple who gives his entire life to the Father for the salvation of every man, with his life he gives the Father everything he is and has, both in material possessions and in spiritual possessions. Every gift is given to the Father. The Father receives it and then through the work of the Holy Spirit he distributes it according to his will. Here is why mercy, both spiritual and material, must always be inspired and moved by the Holy Spirit. Everything must be by the will of the Father, nothing by our will. Now, since today we are departing from the Father and from the Son and from the Holy Spirit, our mercy might never be clothed with supernatural dimension. However, the Christian can only know and live this mercy. Virgin Mary, Mother of the true mercy, help us live of supernatural piety.**