**MONDAY JUNE 13 – XI WEEK O.T. [C]**

**But I say to you, offer no resistance to one who is evil. When someone strikes you on (your) right cheek, turn the other one to him as well. If anyone wants to go to law with you over your tunic, hand him your cloak as well.**

**In history of humanity, the inventor of the limitless vengeance was Lamech. Here are his words: “Lamech said to his wives: "Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; wives of Lamech, listen to my utterance: I have killed a man for wounding me, a boy for bruising me. If Cain is avenged sevenfold, then Lamech seventy-sevenfold." (Gen 4, 23-24)**

**Jacob’s sons have inflicted limitless vengeance to all the males of a people for having raped, Shechem, Hamor the Hivite’s son, their sister Dinah:** “**Dinah, the daughter whom Leah had borne to Jacob, went out to visit some of the women of the land. When Shechem, son of Hamor the Hivite, who was chief of the region, saw her, he seized her and lay with her by force. Since he was strongly attracted to Dinah, daughter of Jacob, indeed was really in love with the girl, he endeavored to win her affection. Shechem also asked his father Hamor, "Get me this girl for a wife." Meanwhile, Jacob heard that Shechem had defiled his daughter Dinah; but since his sons were out in the fields with his livestock, he held his peace until they came home.**

**All the able-bodied men of the town agreed with Hamor and his son Shechem, and all the males, including every able-bodied man in the community, were circumcised. On the third day, while they were still in pain, Dinah's full brothers Simeon and Levi, two of Jacob's sons, took their swords, advanced against the city without any trouble, and massacred all the males. After they had put Hamor and his son Shechem to the sword, they took Dinah from Shechem's house and left. Then the other sons of Jacob followed up the slaughter and sacked the city in reprisal for their sister Dinah's defilement. They seized their flocks, herds and asses, whatever was in the city and in the country around. They carried off all their wealth, their women, and their children, and took for loot whatever was in the houses. Jacob said to Simeon and Levi: "You have brought trouble upon me by making me loathsome to the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites and the Perizzites. I have so few men that, if these people unite against me and attack me, I and my family will be wiped out." But they retorted, "Should our sister have been treated like a harlot?" (cf. Gen 34, 1-31) Beyond the limitless vengeance, one should add deceit. Moreover, there is a punishment that is inflicted to some innocents who have done nothing bad.**

**The Lord does not love such disproportionate justice, without neither limit nor measure and this is why He gives his people the Law that is said of retaliation: vengeance must be proportionated to the suffered evil:** **"When men have a fight and hurt a pregnant woman, so that she suffers a miscarriage, but no further injury, the guilty one shall be fined as much as the woman's husband demands of him, and he shall pay in the presence of the judges. But if injury ensues, you shall give life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.” (Ex 21, 22-25)**

**Jesus abolishes this Law as well. Not only should one never take revenge, not only should one always forgive, moreover neither should one oppose to the one who is evil. Before the one who is evil we must be like a leaf on the wings of the wind. He can do what he wants of us. He wants the tunic and one hands him the cloak as well. He presses you into service for one mile and you will go for two miles. Also, one must always be ready to do the good. Does one ask to borrow? If one can do it, one must never turn his back on that. The Christian is the one who lets himself be stripped of his garments.**

**Let us read the text of Mt 5,38-42**

**"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, offer no resistance to one who is evil. When someone strikes you on (your) right cheek, turn the other one to him as well. If anyone wants to go to law with you over your tunic, hand him your cloak as well. Should anyone press you into service for one mile, go with him for two miles. Give to the one who asks of you, and do not turn your back on one who wants to borrow.**

**Jesus asks his disciples to do nothing but what He did during the days of his passion:** “**Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus inside the praetorium and gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped off his clothes and threw a scarlet military cloak about him. Weaving a crown out of thorns, they placed it on his head, and a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat upon him and took the reed and kept striking him on the head. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the cloak, dressed him in his own clothes, and led him off to crucify him. As they were going out, they met a Cyrenian named Simon; this man they pressed into service to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of the Skull), they gave Jesus wine to drink mixed with gall. But when he had tasted it, he refused to drink. After they had crucified him, they divided his garments by casting lots; then they sat down and kept watch over him there. And they placed over his head the written charge against him: This is Jesus, the King of the Jews. Two revolutionaries were crucified with him, one on his right and the other on his left.” (Mt 27, 27-38) If the Christian lived this teaching of Jesus, he would surrender as Christ the Lord before the one who is evil. Earth would be an oasis of great peace. May the Mother of God help us imitate Jesus.**