**TUESDAY JUNE 14 – XI WEEK O.T. [C]**

**And if you greet your brothers only, what is unusual about that? Do not the pagans do the same? So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect.**

**In the Old Testament the Lord asks his worshippers to be holy for He is holy. What does God’s holiness consist of? In the love toward every man. Every man is his creature, made by him in his image and likeness and He pours out his love toward every man. His worshippers, too, are to stand out for their love toward everybody:** **The LORD said to Moses, "Speak to the whole Israelite community and tell them: Be holy, for I, the LORD your God, am holy. When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not be so thorough that you reap the field to its very edge, nor shall you glean the stray ears of grain. Likewise, you shall not pick your vineyard bare, nor gather up the grapes that have fallen. These things you shall leave for the poor and the alien. I, the LORD, am your God.** **You shall not defraud or rob your neighbor. You shall not withhold overnight the wages of your day laborer.** **You shall not act dishonestly in rendering judgment. Show neither partiality to the weak nor deference to the mighty, but judge your fellow men justly. You shall not go about spreading slander among your kinsmen; nor shall you stand by idly when your neighbor's life is at stake. I am the LORD.** **You shall treat the alien who resides with you no differently than the natives born among you; have the same love for him as for yourself; for you too were once aliens in the land of Egypt. I, the LORD, am your God. "Do not act dishonestly in using measures of length or weight or capacity. You shall have a true scale and true weights, an honest ephah and an honest hin. I, the LORD, am your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt. (Cf. Lev 19,1-37)**

**Jesus asks his disciples to be perfect as the heavenly Father is perfect. This perfection does not only consist of giving his sun and his rain to every man, whether just or unjust. His Sun is Christ Jesus. He has made him sin for everybody, so that we obtained the reconciliation through his sacrifice. He lets his Holy Spirit rain who is to inundate every heart with Christ Jesus’s life. But Christ Jesus, too, lives of universal love. He has taken all sins of the world upon himself. This truth is prophesised by Isaiah and enlightened by the Apostle John:** “**He was spurned and avoided by men, a man of suffering, accustomed to infirmity, One of those from whom men hide their faces, spurned, and we held him in no esteem. Yet it was our infirmities that he bore, our sufferings that he endured, While we thought of him as stricken, as one smitten by God and afflicted. But he was pierced for our offenses, crushed for our sins, Upon him was the chastisement that makes us whole, by his stripes we were healed. We had all gone astray like sheep, each following his own way; But the LORD laid upon him the guilt of us all. Though he was harshly treated, he submitted and opened not his mouth; Like a lamb led to the slaughter or a sheep before the shearers, he was silent and opened not his mouth. Oppressed and condemned, he was taken away, and who would have thought any more of his destiny? When he was cut off from the land of the living, and smitten for the sin of his people.” (Is 53, 3-8)** “**Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love. In this way the love of God was revealed to us: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might have life through him. In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as expiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also must love one another. No one has ever seen God. Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us, and his love is brought to perfection in us. This is how we know that we remain in him and he in us, that he has given us of his Spirit. Moreover, we have seen and testify that the Father sent his Son as savior of the world. Whoever acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God remains in him and he in God. We have come to know and to believe in the love God has for us. God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him. (1 Jn 4, 7-16)**

**Let us read the text of Mt 5,43-48**

**"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father, for he makes his sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what recompense will you have? Do not the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brothers only, what is unusual about that? Do not the pagans do the same? So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect.**

**If we want to be perfect as the heavenly Father is perfect and as Christ Jesus is perfect, we, too, are to give our life for the salvation of every man. The good of the Christian is either good of salvation and of redemption of the entire world or otherwise it always remains good, but it is not still the good he is asked because of his belonging to Christ and of his being in Christ body for the redemption and the salvation of the world. The love of the Christian is different from every other love. His is to be the same love of the Father and of Christ Jesus to give under motion and inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Mother of God, let us live of this love.**