**WEDNESDAY JUNE 15 – XI WEEK O.T [C]**

**When you give alms, do not blow a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets to win the praise of others. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward.**

**Every worshipper of the true God accomplishes many works, that are ordered by the Law of the Lord, the Law that is being of the nature created in image God’s image and written in every man’s heart; a Law of nature that is immediately turned by God in Law announced, said, heard to his ear so that one may never say not to have been able to interpret the truth of his nature; a Law dealing with every relation of man with God, with himself, with the woman, with every other being existing on earth and in the universe. Here are the first Laws God let man hear:** “**Then God said: "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and the cattle, and over all the wild animals and all the creatures that crawl on the ground." God created man in his image; in the divine image he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them, saying: "Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that move on the earth." (Gen 1, 26-28)** **The LORD God gave man this order: "You are free to eat from any of the trees of the garden except the tree of knowledge of good and bad. From that tree you shall not eat; the moment you eat from it you are surely doomed to die." The LORD God said: "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a suitable partner for him." (Gen 2, 16-18)** **In the course of time Cain brought an offering to the LORD from the fruit of the soil, while Abel, for his part, brought one of the best firstlings of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not. Cain greatly resented this and was crestfallen. So the LORD said to Cain: "Why are you so resentful and crestfallen? If you do well, you can hold up your head; but if not, sin is a demon lurking at the door: his urge is toward you, yet you can be his master." (Gen 4, 3-7)**

**Today the Gospel examines three relations that every man live during the day or the week or the year: alms, prayer, fasting. These three works can be lived by man at the service of his vainglory or at the service of God’s glory. If man lives them at the service of his glory, he might never think to receive the glory coming from the Lord. Instead, if he wants the glory coming from the Lord and that is eternal, divine, immortal glory, then he is to live all things in silence and in hiddenness. The man created by God in his image has two obliged choices to fulfil. The first choice is that of obeying the Law of the Lord to remain alive and not to incur death, a death in time that might be consumed in eternal death, if he does not return into the obedience to the Law that the Lord has made to resonate to his ear, but that he had first written in his heart and entrusted to his rationality, so that it convinced his will to choose never to depart from what the Lord has demanded. The second choice is that of doing everything for the greater glory of God so as to deserve an eternal glory from his Lord. It is evident that if man does not obey the first Law, that of living not to die, he might never observe the second Law, that commands to do everything for the glory of the Lord. Whoever does not observe the first Law is in the death and whoever is in the death might do nothing for his eternal glory for he is in the death. First one needs to return into life and then he might work for the greatest glory of the Lord.**

**Let us read the text of Mt 6,1-6.16-18**

**"(But) take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them; otherwise, you will have no recompense from your heavenly Father. When you give alms, do not blow a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets to win the praise of others. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right is doing, so that your almsgiving may be secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you. "When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, who love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on street corners so that others may see them. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you.** **"When you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites. They neglect their appearance, so that they may appear to others to be fasting. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you may not appear to be fasting, except to your Father who is hidden. And your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you.**

**Jesus does not go into the merit of the single religious practices that one lives. Instead, He says how every religious practice is to be lived. What He says for the prayer, the alms, the fasting is worth every other relation that man daily lives. Does Jesus not give a supernatural purpose to all the works of mercy? Does He not say that everything is done to Him? Now, if I give alms to Christ, and I fast to help Christ, the ways necessarily change. I cannot humiliate Christ in exalting myself. The Apostle Paul gives this principle: “Whatsoever else you do, do all to the glory of God.” Whatsoever. May the Mother of God comes and help us so that everything is done for the glory of the Lord.**