**THURSDAY JUNE 16 – XI WEEK O.T. [C]**

**If you forgive others their transgressions, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your transgressions.**

**Before engaging in prayer, it is necessary for man to reconcile with his brothers. Without reconciliation, no prayer is accepted by the Lord. Here is what it is written in the Gospel according to Matthew and in the First Letter of the Apostle John:** **"You have heard that it was said to your ancestors, 'You shall not kill; and whoever kills will be liable to judgment.' But I say to you, whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment, and whoever says to his brother, 'Raqa,' will be answerable to the Sanhedrin, and whoever says, 'You fool,' will be liable to fiery Gehenna. Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Settle with your opponent quickly while on the way to court with him. Otherwise your opponent will hand you over to the judge, and the judge will hand you over to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Amen, I say to you, you will not be released until you have paid the last penny.” (Mt 5, 21-26)**

**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. In this is love brought to perfection among us, that we have confidence on the day of judgment because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear because fear has to do with punishment, and so one who fears is not yet perfect in love. We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," but hates his brother, he is a liar; for whoever does not love a brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. This is the commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.” (1 Jn 4, 7-21) Without forgiveness, without reconciliation, without a true and sincere love toward each of our brother, we cannot go before the Lord. We cannot appeal to his love. To the love of the Lord can one appeal only with our great love. The greater our love for the brothers is and the more we can knock at the Lord’s love, asking Him for every grace. What graces must we ask?**

**In the prayer Jesus teaches us, the first grace to ask is that: that on earth, the Lord’s name is sanctified, his kingdom comes, his will is done. We can ask for this grace, if we manifest to the world, moment after moment, how one sanctifies the Lord’s name, how to build up his kingdom on earth, how one obeys his will. If we do not do it, neither can we say the prayer of “Our father.” We would ask for what we do not do, what we do not love, what we do not want. We can pass to the second part of the prayer, if we do all of that. Then, we can ask the Lord to give us our daily bread, or the bread of this day. But this request, too, is to be made from our love toward the brothers. If I have some bread and I do not share it, I might never ask the Lord for the bread, neither for me nor for the others. First, I must share my bread and then I can ask for the bread for me and for the others. I am the one who must give the bread for the others for first. If I do not give it, neither can I ask for it. I would pray as a selfish person. It would be a not pleased prayer.**

**Let us read the text of Mt 6,7-15**

**In praying, do not babble like the pagans, who think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them. Your Father knows what you need before you ask him. "This is how you are to pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and do not subject us to the final test, but deliver us from the evil one. If you forgive others their transgressions, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your transgressions.**

**If I do not love the brothers, neither can I ask the Lord for the forgiveness of my faults. Even this request demands it to be made from the love governing our heart. What forgiveness might someone who does not love his brothers ask God if the first forgiveness one is to ask God is about the faults of one’s own selfishness? This is why not everyone can say this prayer. Whoever lives as true son of the Father can say it. In fact, it is turned to the Father: “Our Father.” May the Mother of God make us worthy of such prayer.**