**FRIDAY JUNE 17 – XI WEEK O.T. [C]**

**But store up treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor decay destroys, nor thieves break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.**

**Whoever wants to store up his treasures with eternal fruit, with limitless fruit must put them in the bank of heaven. The bank of heaven is alms. What happens when we use the bank of heaven to deposit our treasures? In every moment we can draw what we need, even more than what we have deposited. Here is what the Word of God teaches:** “**He does a kindness who lends to his neighbor, and he fulfills the precepts who holds out a helping hand. Lend to your neighbor in his hour of need, and pay back your neighbor when a loan falls due; Keep your promise, be honest with him, and you will always come by what you need. Many a man who asks for a loan adds to the burdens of those who help him; When he borrows, he kisses the lender's hand and speaks with respect of his creditor's wealth; But when payment is due he disappoints him and says he is helpless to meet the claim. If the lender is able to recover barely half, he considers this an achievement; If not, he is cheated of his wealth and acquires an enemy at no extra charge; With curses and insults the borrower pays him back, with abuse instead of honor. Many refuse to lend, not out of meanness, but from fear of being cheated. To a poor man, however, be generous; keep him not waiting for your alms; Because of the precept, help the needy, and in their want, do not send them away empty-handed. Spend your money for your brother and friend, and hide it not under a stone to perish; Dispose of your treasure as the Most High commands, for that will profit you more than the gold. Store up almsgiving in your treasure house, and it will save you from every evil; Better than a stout shield and a sturdy spear it will fight for you against the foe.” (Sir 29, 1-13) Here is a promised linked to alms: “It will save you from every evil”, even from the evil of the eternal perdition.**

**The Apostle Paul announces that the Lord reward not according to what was given, but according to the need of each one:** “**I rejoice greatly in the Lord that now at last you revived your concern for me. You were, of course, concerned about me but lacked an opportunity. Not that I say this because of need, for I have learned, in whatever situation I find myself, to be self-sufficient. I know indeed how to live in humble circumstances; I know also how to live with abundance. In every circumstance and in all things I have learned the secret of being well fed and of going hungry, of living in abundance and of being in need. I have the strength for everything through him who empowers me. Still, it was kind of you to share in my distress. You Philippians indeed know that at the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, not a single church shared with me in an account of giving and receiving, except you alone. For even when I was at Thessalonica you sent me something for my needs, not only once but more than once. It is not that I am eager for the gift; rather, I am eager for the profit that accrues to your account. I have received full payment and I abound. I am very well supplied because of what I received from you through Epaphroditus, "a fragrant aroma," an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. My God will fully supply whatever you need, in accord with his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father, glory forever and ever. Amen. (Phil 4, 10-20) The mystery of almsgiving is great. Blessed is the one who makes his possessions perennial alms. The blessing upon him is always abundant and copious. This one shall not want.**

**Let us read the text of Mt 6,19-23**

**"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and decay destroy, and thieves break in and steal. But store up treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor decay destroys, nor thieves break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be. "The lamp of the body is the eye. If your eye is sound, your whole body will be filled with light; but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be in darkness. And if the light in you is darkness, how great will the darkness be.**

**Jesus warns us: our heart is where our treasure is. If for us the treasure is our richness, our heart is in the richness. If the treasure for us is God, even our heart is in God. If our treasure is Christ, even our heart is in Christ. Since today our heart is not in Christ, it is sign that Christ is not our treasure. But if Christ is not our treasure, neither God is our treasure, for God’s treasure is Christ Jesus. Christ Jesus is the treasure of the Father and of the Holy Spirit. He is the treasure of the Church and of the entire humanity. He is the treasure in time and in eternity. He is the universal and eternal treasure. If our heart is not in the true Christ of God, it is in a false God, in a false Holy Spirit, in a false Church, in a false humanity, in a false time and also in a false eternity. Havening we lost Christ Jesus as our unique true treasure, we are putting our hope in a false eternity. But if eternity is false, even hope is false and consequently there will not be true eternal life for us. It urges that Christ Jesus becomes the true treasure of each of his disciple. Becoming the true treasure of each of his disciple, He might become true treasure of every other man. But if He if He does not become true treasure of the Christian, might He become true treasure of one only other man? Never. Today one does not even want Jesus to become the treasure of the other hearts. So great is the foolishness and the ignorance of the Christian. He has denied his treasure. He does not want it to be the treasure of the others. This is the greatest sin against Redemption. Mother of Jesus, deliver us from this great foolishness.**