**TUESDAY JUNE 21 – XII WEEK O.T. [C]**

**Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road broad that leads to destruction, and those who enter through it are many. How narrow the gate and constricted the road that leads to life. And those who find it are few.**

**The large and wide gate leading to perdition is the thought of the world, made of idolatry and universal injustice, immorality, iniquity. The narrow gate is Christ, instead. One enters this gate that leads to life passing through the constricted road of the Gospel. For the Apostle Paul the constricted road is the Gospel of charity:** “**If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, (love) is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.” (1 Cor 13, 1-7) This road must never be abandoned.**

**Always for the Apostle Paul the narrow gate is the non-conformation to the thoughts of this world and the victory over evil always remaining in good:** “**I urge you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship. Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect. For by the grace given to me I tell everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than one ought to think, but to think soberly, each according to the measure of faith that God has apportioned. For as in one body we have many parts, and all the parts do not have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ and individually parts of one another. Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us exercise them: if prophecy, in proportion to the faith; if ministry, in ministering; if one is a teacher, in teaching; if one exhorts, in exhortation; if one contributes, in generosity; if one is over others, with diligence; if one does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be sincere; hate what is evil, hold on to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; anticipate one another in showing honor. Do not grow slack in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the holy ones, exercise hospitality. Bless those who persecute (you), bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Have the same regard for one another; do not be haughty but associate with the lowly; do not be wise in your own estimation. Do not repay anyone evil for evil; be concerned for what is noble in the sight of all. If possible, on your part, live at peace with all. Beloved, do not look for revenge but leave room for the wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." Rather, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals upon his head." Do not be conquered by evil but conquer evil with good.” (Rm 12, 1-21) For Jesus the narrow gate is the Sermon of the Mountain lived in each of his Word with immediate obedience. Even one little distraction is enough and from the narrow gate one precipitates to the wide gate. A thought of the world is enough and one is on the road that will never lead to the eternal life. Great is our responsibility.**

**Let us read the text of Mt 7,6.12-14**

**"Do not give what is holy to dogs, or throw your pearls before swine, lest they trample them underfoot, and turn and tear you to pieces.** **"Do to others whatever you would have them do to you. This is the law and the prophets. "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road broad that leads to destruction, and those who enter through it are many. How narrow the gate and constricted the road that leads to life. And those who find it are few.**

**The holy things are the mysteries of grace. Most holy things are the sacraments. To whom are sacraments to be given? To the ones who are worth it. Who is worth to receive a sacrament? The one who is willing to live all the new reality that the sacrament creates in us. If the baptism makes us true children of God, if the person is not willing or he does not want to live as a true child of God, the sacrament cannot be given. Likewise, if a child of God does not want to live as a true minister of Christ, neither the sacrament of the sacred order might never be granted. First one preaches, teaches, instructs about the new reality that the sacrament creates in us, first one is to gather all its obligations and then one might grant a sacrament. Unfortunately, today one wants the sacraments, but one refuses to obey the obligations arising from the sacraments by true new creation. May the Mother of Jesus help us so that we give and live every sacrament according to the new creation they work in us.**