**FRIDAY JULY 01 – XIII WEEK O.T. [C]**

**He heard this and said, "Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. Go and learn the meaning of the words, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."**

**The Lord does not love the worship that is lived in the transgression of his Word. All the prophets cry this truth. Here is what the Lord says through the mouth of the prophet Isaiah:** “**What care I for the number of your sacrifices? says the LORD. I have had enough of whole-burnt rams and fat of fatlings; In the blood of calves, lambs and goats I find no pleasure. When you come in to visit me, who asks these things of you? Trample my courts no more! Bring no more worthless offerings; your incense is loathsome to me. New moon and sabbath, calling of assemblies, octaves with wickedness: these I cannot bear. Your new moons and festivals I detest; they weigh me down, I tire of the load. When you spread out your hands, I close my eyes to you; Though you pray the more, I will not listen. Your hands are full of blood! Wash yourselves clean! Put away your misdeeds from before my eyes; cease doing evil; learn to do good. Make justice your aim: redress the wronged, hear the orphan's plea, defend the widow.” (Is 1, 11-17) Here is what He says through the mouth of the prophet Micah: “With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow before God most high? Shall I come before him with holocausts, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with myriad streams of oil? Shall I give my first-born for my crime, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? You have been told, O man, what is good, and what the LORD requires of you: Only to do right and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God.” (Mi 6, 6-8)**

**Here is what He says through the mouth of Malachi: “Oh, that one among you would shut the temple gates to keep you from kindling fire on my altar in vain! I have no pleasure in you, says the LORD of hosts; neither will I accept any sacrifice from your hands, For from the rising of the sun, even to its setting, my name is great among the nations; And everywhere they bring sacrifice to my name, and a pure offering; For great is my name among the nations, says the LORD of hosts.” (Mal 1, 10-11) Here is what He says through the mouth of Hosea: "Come, let us return to the LORD, For it is he who has rent, but he will heal us; he has struck us, but he will bind our wounds. He will revive us after two days; on the third day he will raise us up, to live in his presence. Let us know, let us strive to know the LORD; as certain as the dawn is his coming, and his judgment shines forth like the light of day! He will come to us like the rain, like spring rain that waters the earth." What can I do with you, Ephraim? What can I do with you, Judah? Your piety is like a morning cloud, like the dew that early passes away. For this reason I smote them through the prophets, I slew them by the words of my mouth; For it is love that I desire, not sacrifice, and knowledge of God rather than holocausts.” (Hos 6, 1-6)**

**What is the mercy the Lord wants? Tearing a heart away from the kingdom of darkness and lead it into the kingdom of light. Delivering the sinner from his sin letting him return into the obedience of his God and Lord. Showing the one who lost the right path, so that he returns on it, without ever abandoning it. Making himself a model of love and justice, so that the others see how to listen to the Lord and dispose themselves to listen to. This is the mercy the Lord asks: teaching those going astray the path of justice, of truth, of light, of true love. One teaches this path announcing the Word of the Scripture as pure, holy, immaculate. If this teaching is not given, one will always lack in mercy, for the sinner will always remain sinner.**

**Let us read the text of Mt 9,9-13**

**As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the customs post. He said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. While he was at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat with Jesus and his disciples. The Pharisees saw this and said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" He heard this and said, "Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. Go and learn the meaning of the words, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."**

**Jesus was sent by the Father to show every man the perfect path of justice, of truth, of light, of true love. If He does not show this path to the sinner, his mission is vain. He would be as a physician who neglects the one who is sick and is at the service of the one who is well. His mission of physician must be declared as void. Instead, he must be at the service of all people. This is why he is a physician. Jesus has many people before Him who are sick in spirit and in soul. Can He abandon these sick people to themselves? If He did it, He would not be a physician of the spirit, of the soul, of the heart. How does Jesus cure every sick of spirit, of soul, of heart? Forgiving his sin, that is the cause of every spiritual and often also physical illness. Announcing the Word of his Father as holy, pure, immaculate. Inviting everyone to the conversion and to the faith in the Gospel. May the Mother of God obtain for us the grace of announcing the entire world the Word of his Son, as holy, pure, immaculate, with nothing added and nothing removed.**