**SATURDAY JULY 02 – XIII WEEK O.T. [C]**

**People do not put new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise the skins burst, the wine spills out, and the skins are ruined. Rather, they pour new wine into fresh wineskins, and both are preserved.**

**Jesus, always filled with Holy Spirit, growing uninterruptedly in wisdom and grace, having the divine intelligence at the highest of human capabilities, rather having the Holy Spirit with no measure and growing in it, knows how to reply to every question one asks Him. Sometimes He responds affirming the most pure truth. He responds with most pure truth when the heart is ready to accept his Word. Here is a response according most pure truth. Rather, it is not a response either. It is announcement of the necessity to be born of water and of Holy Spirit to enter the kingdom of heaven: “Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. He came to Jesus at night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you are doing unless God is with him." Jesus answered and said to him, "Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can a person once grown old be born again? Surely he cannot reenter his mother's womb and be born again, can he?" Jesus answered, "Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of flesh is flesh and what is born of spirit is spirit. Do not be amazed that I told you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it wills, and you can hear the sound it makes, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes; so it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus answered and said to him, "How can this happen?" Jesus answered and said to him, "You are the teacher of Israel and you do not understand this? Amen, amen, I say to you, we speak of what we know and we testify to what we have seen, but you people do not accept our testimony. If I tell you about earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has gone up to heaven except the one who has come down from heaven, the Son of Man.” (Jn 3, 1-13)**

**When, because of hardened hearts, He cannot reply according to most pure truth, He uses mysterious phrases that are needed to calm down these hardened hearts, so that they do not cause any harm to Him. The Lord our God, through the means of the prophet Isaiah, has already revealed what the fast pleased to Him was: observing every Law of justice given by Him and also every Law of charity, of love, of mercy, of compassion. Jesus cannot reply according to the revelation of the Father. Hearts are not ready to accept such teaching. Then He uses a daily life event and says to them that no one fasts when he goes to a wedding feast. Today his disciples have the bridegroom and are in a wedding feast. Tomorrow the bridegroom is taken away from them and they will fast. Divine wisdom of Jesus. With this reply, He reassures that He has not come to abolish their habits. Moreover He adds that even his disciples will go through fast, often imposed to them by history. Hearts find peace. This is enough. Divine and holy methodology of Jesus that each of his disciple must always have. Not always can one reply with purity of truth. The Holy Spirit is always He who gives the right response before every man.**

**Let us read the text of Mt 9,14-17**

**Then the disciples of John approached him and said, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast (much), but your disciples do not fast?" Jesus answered them, "Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast. No one patches an old cloak with a piece of unshrunken cloth, for its fullness pulls away from the cloak and the tear gets worse. People do not put new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise the skins burst, the wine spills out, and the skins are ruined. Rather, they pour new wine into fresh wineskins, and both are preserved."**

**However, then Jesus says something of profoundly true: He has not come to patch up the Old Testament. He has not come to take what is waned of the Old Testament to give it new vitality. He has come to fulfil both the Law and the prophets. The fulfilment is an absolute news. What is the fulfilment and what is the absolute news? Here is his cross. It is He, the Crucified. It is He who makes himself victim of expiation for the sins of the world. It is He who makes his life an offer to the Father for the redemption and the salvation of humanity. Here we are infinitively beyond the fast. There is not the deprivation of the food. Here is the denial of himself until the death by Cross. Here there is an obedience to the will of the Father until the gift of his life. This sacrifice needs a new wineskin. The wineskin of the Old Testament cannot contain it. One needs the new wineskin of the new heart created by the Holy Spirit through the faith in Christ Jesus and the rebirth from water and from Holy Spirit. An old heart, that of the Old Testament, can never contain the new wine that is Christ Crucified. The new heart, created by the Holy Spirit, fruit of the sacrifice of Christ, can contain it, rather it makes it his own mystery of life. Here is why today we are justifying every sin of man. Having taken away Christ Jesus and the Holy Spirit, who is the Creator of the new heart, we find ourselves with an old heart and we put ourselves at the service of this old heart. Thus we justify and ratify every sin as nothingness. May the Mother of God deliver us from such foolishness.**