**MONDAY JULY 11 – XIV WEEK O.T. [C]**

**SAINT BENEDICT PATRON OF EUROPE**

**And everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands for the sake of my name will receive a hundred times more, and will inherit eternal life.**

**The Christian has a unique model to follow: Christ Jesus. Who is Christ the Lord? The one who has annihilated himself for obedience to the Father leaving his body hanged on a cross. Christ’s obedience is model for every disciple of Jesus. Here is how this truth is taught both by the Gospel and by the Apostle Paul:**

**From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer greatly from the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised. Then Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, "God forbid, Lord! No such thing shall ever happen to you." He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do." Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Or what can one give in exchange for his life? (Mt 16, 21-26)**

**If there is any encouragement in Christ, any solace in love, any participation in the Spirit, any compassion and mercy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, with the same love, united in heart, thinking one thing. Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but (also) everyone for those of others. Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus, Who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. So then, my beloved, obedient as you have always been, not only when I am present but all the more now when I am absent, work out your salvation with fear and trembling. For God is the one who, for his good purpose, works in you both to desire and to work. Do everything without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine like lights in the world, as you hold on to the word of life, so that my boast for the day of Christ may be that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. But, even if I am poured out as a libation upon the sacrificial service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with all of you. In the same way you also should rejoice and share your joy with me. (Phil 2,1-18) If it is easy to leave people and things to follow Jesus, it is difficult to leave one’s own thoughts. Now if one wants to follow Jesus, the thoughts are what one must leave, nailing them on the cross, to only follow the thought of Christ Jesus, manifested with his Word and with the example of his life. Christ Jesus leaves his entire body to remain eternally in the thoughts of his Father, thoughts daily communicated to Him and made known by the Holy Spirit.**

**LET US READ THE TEXT OF Mt 19,27-29**

**Then Peter said to him in reply, "We have given up everything and followed you. What will there be for us?" Jesus said to them, "Amen, I say to you that you who have followed me, in the new age, when the Son of Man is seated on his throne of glory, will yourselves sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands for the sake of my name will receive a hundred times more, and will inherit eternal life.**

**Today one says to follow Jesus, one also says to be willing to leave everything for Him, but one thing is not left: one’s own thought. In fact, one lives the baptism, the confirmation, the diaconate, the presbytery and often also the episcopate according to one’s own thought. The damages that this stile of discipleship is producing today are extremely devastating and incalculable. One is opening the gates of falsity and of lie. One is locking all the gates of truth and of light. Can one get back from this abyss in which the thought of man is making us fall? Impossible with our earthly efforts. One would need powerful intervention of the Holy Spirit. This intervention must have one only purpose: delivering man from his thoughts and grafting the thought of Christ in its place, that is the thought of the Father. However, since today the disciple of Jesus wants to walk with his thoughts raised to thoughts of Christ and of God, not even the Spirit will be able to do something. We reached the limit from which one no longer gets back and this limit is given by the sin against the Holy Spirit. Is there a possibility of salvation? A way exists. May whoever believes in Christ’s thought become his defender and let himself be made martyr for the truth of Jesus the Lord. The martyr for the truth is the way of salvation today. May the Mother of God come to our rescue.**