**SATURDAY JULY 16 – XV WEEK O. T. [C]**

**But the Pharisees went out and took counsel against him to put him to death. When Jesus realized this, he withdrew from that place. Many (people) followed him, and he cured them all, but he warned them not to make him known.**

**Why does one take counsel against Christ Jesus to put him to death? Not because he will not break a bruised reed and not even because He will not quench a smoldering wick. This is a part of the mission of Christ. This part is the mission of charity, of compassion, of piety, of mercy. This part is accepted by everyone. But there is the other part that is refused and it is the part of light, of truth, of justice, of the perfect obedience to God. A Pharisee obeying only to his heart cannot tolerate that there is a Teacher proclaiming himself above him and dictate the Law of truth, of light, of justice, of true obedience. This Teacher can never exist. If he exists, one must get rid of him. It is because of this mission of light that the sentence of death for Jesus has already been pronounced. Everyone wants the first part, the part of mercy. However, the mission of Christ is not only of charity and of love, it is also mission of light and of truth.**

**Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased, Upon whom I have put my spirit; he shall bring forth justice to the nations, Not crying out, not shouting, not making his voice heard in the street. A bruised reed he shall not break, and a smoldering wick he shall not quench, Until he establishes justice on the earth; the coastlands will wait for his teaching. Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spreads out the earth with its crops, Who gives breath to its people and spirit to those who walk on it: I, the LORD, have called you for the victory of justice, I have grasped you by the hand; I formed you, and set you as a covenant of the people, a light for the nations, To open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness.” (Is 42.1-7).**

**Being the mission of Christ Jesus mission of the Apostles and in communion with them, of every other member of the body of Christ, every Apostle should not only live the mission of charity. He must first live the mission of light and of truth. Here is the exhortation the Apostle Paul addresses to the Bishop Timothy: “You have followed my teaching, way of life, purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, persecutions, and sufferings, such as happened to me in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra, persecutions that I endured. Yet from all these things the Lord delivered me. In fact, all who want to live religiously in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. But wicked people and charlatans will go from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But you, remain faithful to what you have learned and believed, because you know from whom you learned it, and that from infancy you have known (the) sacred scriptures, which are capable of giving you wisdom for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for refutation, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that one who belongs to God may be competent, equipped for every good work.** **I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingly power: proclaim the word; be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient; convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience and teaching. For the time will come when people will not tolerate sound doctrine but, following their own desires and insatiable curiosity, will accumulate teachers and will stop listening to the truth and will be diverted to myths. But you, be self-possessed in all circumstances; put up with hardship; perform the work of an evangelist; fulfill your ministry. (2Tm 3,10-4,5)**

**LET US READ THE TEXT OF Mt 12,14-21**

**But the Pharisees went out and took counsel against him to put him to death. When Jesus realized this, he withdrew from that place. Many (people) followed him, and he cured them all, but he warned them not to make him known. This was to fulfill what had been spoken through Isaiah the prophet: "Behold, my servant whom I have chosen, my beloved in whom I delight; I shall place my spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles. He will not contend or cry out, nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break, a smoldering wick he will not quench, until he brings justice to victory. And in his name the Gentiles will hope."**

**Living the mission of charity is useless if one does not live the mission of peace. If we do not live the mission of light, we are similar in all to some gravedigger charged with burying all the people dead from pestilence. The more the pestilence kills them and the more they must bury them. With the mission of light and of truth, one eliminates a lot of sin of man and one eliminates many deaths because of the sin of men. Here is why the Christian is reduced to a gravedigger, if he omits the ministry of light and of truth. This ministry is what prompts the enemies of light to decide our death. But we must always perseverate in it. The sole mission of charity is useless and vain without the mission of light and of truth. May the Mother of God help us to be faithful to the ministry of light. Our consecration to the Gospel and to its light demands it.**