**WEDNESDAY AUGUST 03 – XVIII WEEK O.T. [C]**

**"Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters." Then Jesus said to her in reply, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that hour**

**The Word of God shows the heart of God. The word of man shows the heart of man. The Word of God reveals whom the Lord our God is. The word of man reveals who man is in his heart. If the word of man is wicked, man is wicked in his heart. If the word is good, man shows the goodness of his heart. If the word is rich in truth, man reveals that his heart is rich in truth. If the word is of lie, of deceit, of envy, of jealousy, of falsity, of darkness, of calumny, man attests that his heart is lie, deceit, envy, jealousy, falsity, darkness. With the word man can destroy another man. Through one of his false word, one can even send to death. The word of man is very powerful: through one of his false word he can save and through one of his word he can kill. If the heart is wicked, the prayer is wicked, too. A good prayer cannot arise from the wicked heart. First, it is necessary to change the heart. Good heart, good prayer. Heart filled with faith, word filled with faith. Foolish heart, foolish prayer. Wise heart, prayer of wisdom and of intelligence, holy prayer.**

**The Canaanite woman has a heart rich in love for her daughter who is tormented by an unclean spirit. For love she humbles herself before Christ Jesus. If Jesus had asked her to throw herself into the fire of hell in exchange for the salvation of her daughter, she would not have hesitated one moment. Her love makes her wise and intelligent. She wants to rip the miracle to Jesus and she will rip it, at any cost, even the greatest humiliation. When Jesus says to her that it is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs, she replies that, by human law ever written, the dogs have the right to eat the scraps that fall from the table of their master. The children do not starve for a scrap that falls. But the dog can also be satiated eating one scrap after another. Now, the fact that Jesus let a scrap fall does not make Him disobedient to the voice of his Father, in the same way as a father does not lack in charity and in justice toward the child if he lets some scrap fall from his table and lets the dogs eat it. Heart filled with love. Response rich in love. Before these words of love, might Jesus deny the grace? If He denied it, He would attest not to love. But He is the Master in love, in charity, in justice, in mercy. The Master cannot be overcome by the love of the woman. He must overcome the woman in love. He immediately grants the grace. For your love rich in most pure love, the grace is granted to you. Thus the woman teaches every man how one prays: with a word rich in love, filled with wisdom and with intelligence. In order to do it, every heart will have to be filled with love, as the heart of this woman is filled with love.**

**Let us read the text of Mt 15,21-28**

**Then Jesus went from that place and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman of that district came and called out, "Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David! My daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not say a word in answer to her. His disciples came and asked him, "Send her away, for she keeps calling out after us." He said in reply, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But the woman came and did him homage, saying, "Lord, help me." He said in reply, "It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters." Then Jesus said to her in reply, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that hour.**

**Now, let us ask. How great is the love of our heart, when we show up before the Lord to pray? But with what love must our heart be filled with, so that our prayer may be fulfilled? First, we must have the heart filled with love for Christ Jesus and it is filled with love if it is rich in faith for Him. Then, it must be filled with love for each of our brother. The prayer must always be the fruit of the greater love for Christ the Lord and for every man. The woman knows that Jesus can heal her daughter. She lets her love intercede, that her wisdom and understanding responds and the grace is obtained. Thus the woman becomes for us a model and an example of the true prayer. If we are true body of Christ, the person for whom we pray, is part of us. It is as if we asked for the grace for the others for ourselves. The mother wants the greatest good for her daughter, but her daughter is flesh of her flesh and bone of her bones. She knows that she needs Christ Jesus’s help. Here is the other truth of our prayer. Our love is not enough so that the other lives, one needs the grace, the love, the compassion of Christ Jesus, that is compassion of the Father, in the Holy Spirit. This truth must always be jealously kept into heart. Today the man thinks he is enough so that the other may live well. This is a perverse thought. All our love without adding Christ’s love is nothing. The other will never enter the fullness of life. May the Mother of God help us understand.**