**TUESDAY AUGUST 09 – XIX WEEK O.T [C]**

**SAINT TERESA B. OF THE CROSS PATRON OF EUROPE**

**But the wise ones replied, 'No, for there may not be enough for us and you. Go instead to the merchants and buy some for yourselves.'**

**There is a wedding. In the wedding, there is the wedding procession. Some virgins accompany the bridegroom in the wedding feast. An unexpected event happens, one of those events that can always happen. The bridegroom is long delayed. Since it is already night, the virgins that must accompany the bridegroom with the lighted lamps fall asleep. This can happen, too. Suddenly, there is a cry. The bridegroom is coming. They must meet him with the lighted lamp in order to accompany him in the wedding feast. Now something that should never occur happens. Five virgins have taken their lamps but only with that oil that was in the lamp. They brought no oil to add once it was consumed. Only then, they realise to have finished the oil and not to have other to add to have the lamp lighted. What do they do? They turn to the other five virgins who have other oil with them and ask whether they want to share it. The reply is immediate: “Go to the merchants and buy some for yourselves. If we give it to you, there may not be enough for us and you. We would do a disservice.” The virgins with no oil listen to the advice and go to the merchants. Meanwhile, the bridegroom comes, the wedding procession is formed, one reaches the wedding feast. The doors are locked. So far, the daily life. Nothing particular.**

**Now, let us see what are the elements introduced by Jesus. Actually, they are two. When the five virgins return, after having made oil provision, they find the door locked. They knock. No one opens. However, they hear a voice who says: ‘Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.' The fruit of their foolishness does not only consist of in not having been able to accompany the bridegroom along the procession until the wedding feast, but also in having been excluded from entering it after having returned from their purchase. A foolishness, a forgetfulness, a distraction, that is not the fruit of a moment, though, but of the way of being and of doing, excludes from the eternal beatitude. Foolishness is not an event of the moment. It is a structure that falsifies heart, mind, soul, spirit, body. We can define foolishness as the anti-nature. While the nature created by God is oriented to the light, the anti-nature goes to the darkness. Today we can attest that humanity is clothing itself with anti-nature, so great is the foolishness no longer to be willing to distinguish the essential truths that are part of the human nature. Male and female do not come from culture, but they are essence of nature, not only of man, but of any other living being on our earth. However, today the kingdom of anti-nature is being establishing and this kingdom does not include only something of man, but the whole man is conquered and made slave by this kingdom of foolishness, falsity, lie, deceit. The saddest thing is realising that the disciples of Jesus that are made participative of the divine nature, are turning themselves little by little into creators of the anti-nature and his strenuously supporters and defenders. Today we can say to be in the Christian era in which one makes profession of anti-nature. But this means that instead of Christ we have chosen the anti-Christ, instead of God the anti-God, instead of the Church the anti-Church. It urges a strong awareness from those who still believe in the fruits of redemption. Jesus has come to deliver us from the anti-nature.**

**Let us read the text of Mt 25,1-13**

**"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones, when taking their lamps, brought no oil with them, but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps. Since the bridegroom was long delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep. At midnight, there was a cry, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise ones replied, 'No, for there may not be enough for us and you. Go instead to the merchants and buy some for yourselves.' While they went off to buy it, the bridegroom came and those who were ready went into the wedding feast with him. Then the door was locked. Afterwards the other virgins came and said, 'Lord, Lord, open the door for us!' But he said in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.' Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour.**

**It is truth. Tomorrow to all the devotees, and creators, and defenders and supporters of the anti-nature, anti-God, anti-Gospel, anti-Christ, anti-Church, the Lord will say: “Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.” Is there any time so that one can be converted in order to retrace the steps of truth and of righteousness? Time is only in this moment. In a moment, we do not know if we are still in time or if we pass into eternity. Here is the reason of the second truth of Jesus: “Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour.” What is this day and this hour? The day and the hour of the passage from time into eternity to be subjected to the eternal judgement of the Lord. But today what is the foolishness or also the anti-nature teaching? That this parable is only a literal genre. There are no eternal truth in it. When we are in eternity, there will be only heaven. There is no hell. It does not belong to a God that is only rich in grace and in mercy. May the Mother of God come and deliver us from any foolishness.**