**FRIDAY AUGUST 19 – XX WEEK O.T. [C]**

**"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments."**

**No one, listening to the reply that Jesus gives to the scholar of the Law should consider himself authorised to love God and the neighbour from his heart, from his mind, from his strength. Love is most pure obedience to each Word given by God to man. Love begins from the respect of the Word, one does not add and does not remove from it: “Now, Israel, hear the statutes and decrees which I am teaching you to observe, that you may live, and may enter in and take possession of the land which the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you. In your observance of the commandments of the LORD, your God, which I enjoin upon you, you shall not add to what I command you nor subtract from it. You have seen with your own eyes what the LORD did at Baal-peor: the LORD, your God, destroyed from your midst everyone that followed the Baal of Peor; but you, who clung to the LORD, your God, are all alive today. Therefore, I teach you the statutes and decrees as the LORD, my God, has commanded me, that you may observe them in the land you are entering to occupy. Observe them carefully, for thus will you give evidence of your wisdom and intelligence to the nations, who will hear of all these statutes and say, 'This great nation is truly a wise and intelligent people.' For what great nation is there that has gods so close to it as the LORD, our God, is to us whenever we call upon him? Or what great nation has statutes and decrees that are as just as this whole law which I am setting before you today? (Dt 4,1-8). One loves God loving the Law of God. Whoever does not love the Law of God does not love God. The love of God is listening to God.**

**One must love with all the heart, the mind, all himself: “Obeying each of his Word.” Here is the other teaching of Moses: “These then are the commandments, the statutes and decrees which the LORD, your God, has ordered that you be taught to observe in the land into which you are crossing for conquest, so that you and your son and your grandson may fear the LORD, your God, and keep, throughout the days of your lives, all his statutes and commandments which I enjoin on you, and thus have long life. Hear then, Israel, and be careful to observe them, that you may grow and prosper the more, in keeping with the promise of the LORD, the God of your fathers, to give you a land flowing with milk and honey. "Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone! Therefore, you shall love the LORD, your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength. Take to heart these words which I enjoin on you today. Drill them into your children. Speak of them at home and abroad, whether you are busy or at rest. Bind them at your wrist as a sign and let them be as a pendant on your forehead. Write them on the doorposts of your houses and on your gates. (Dt 6,1-9). If we depart from the Word written for us by God, there is no love. God and his Word are the same thing. God must never be separated from his Word, and thus love, as well. God, Word, love are eternally one only thing.**

**Let us read the text of Mt 22.34-40**

**When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them [a scholar of the law] tested him by asking, "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments."**

**However, this is the Word of the Old Covenant. We are in the New. The New has the Word of Christ Jesus. Word and Christ Jesus must never be separated and thus also love and Word. Today there is a will, that wants to separate love from the Word. Without the Word, all becomes love: adultery is love. Divorce is love. Euthanasia is love. Abortion is love. Marriage not marriage for the subjects who may contract it lack – the subjects are a man and a woman, a male and a female – is called love. Every other transgression of the Word is called. Every other transgression of the Word is said love. Everything becomes clear if we substitute the word “you shall love” with the other: “you shall obey” or with the other one “you shall obey.” Whom must one listen to? The Lord who speaks. Whom must one obey? The Lord who speaks. Word and God are one only thing. Thus also Word and Christ Jesus, Gospel and love. Who loves? The one who obeys the Gospel with all his heart, all his soul, all his strengths love. One separates love from the Word and one no longer loves. Jesus has said it with clarity and great firmness: Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name? Did we not drive out demons in your name? Did we not do mighty deeds in your name?' Then I will declare to them solemnly, 'I never knew you. Depart from me, you evildoers.' (Mt 7, 21-23) The will of the Father is his Word. Whoever rejects the Word of Christ Jesus rejects the Father, for Christ Jesus has given us only and always the Word of the Father. Whoever rejects me, Jesus says, rejects the one who sent me. Whoever rejects the Gospel rejects the Father. May the Mother of Jesus teaches us the true love that is most pure listening and most pure obedience to the Word. Word of God in the Old Testament. Word of Christ Jesus in the New. Loving is obeying.**