**FRIDAY AUGUST 26 – XXI WEEK O.T. [C]**

**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.'**

**There is the charity that can always be done and there is the charity that can never be done. The charity that can never be done is the fulfilment of any request that is turned to us by the damned. Between us and them, the abyss is unbridgeable. Jesus reveals it in the Parable of the rich man:** **"There was a rich man who dressed in purple garments and fine linen and dined sumptuously each day. And lying at his door was a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who would gladly have eaten his fill of the scraps that fell from the rich man's table. Dogs even used to come and lick his sores. When the poor man died, he was carried away by angels to the bosom of Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried, and from the netherworld, where he was in torment, he raised his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. And he cried out, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me. Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am suffering torment in these flames.' Abraham replied, 'My child, remember that you received what was good during your lifetime while Lazarus likewise received what was bad; but now he is comforted here, whereas you are tormented. Moreover, between us and you a great chasm is established to prevent anyone from crossing who might wish to go from our side to yours or from your side to ours.' He said, 'Then I beg you, father, send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they too come to this place of torment.' But Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets. Let them listen to them.' He said, 'Oh no, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' Then Abraham said, 'If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone should rise from the dead.'" (Lk 16,19-31). Not even the charity of a prayer for the damned, not even the celebration of a Holy Mass, not even the offering of some other sacrifice to give them some relief. We should think, reflect, meditate. But there is another charity that is impossible to give men: our merits so that they may compensate their demerits. We can pray for the others, we can plead for the Lord’s mercy, but we cannot give an unrighteous our merits making him righteous. The way of righteousness passes through the conversion and the faith in the Gospel. Not even Christ Jesus has given the wicked his merits making them that way, ready to enter the eternal kingdom of the Father. One needs to pass through the way of the conversion, of the faith in the Gospel, through a life entirely lived in the Gospel. The Church applies the merits of Christ Jesus, of the Blessed Virgin, of the Martyrs and of the confessors of the faith through the remission of the punishments due to sins. However, it asks the conversion, the sincere repentance, the passage from the unrighteousness to the righteousness, all necessary things to have the indulgence from the punishments.**

**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.**

**Now, if not even Christ might ever give one only of his merit to an unrighteous person to make him righteous – the way of righteousness is the faith in the Gospel and our dwelling in the Holy Spirit always through the faith in the name of Jesus, the Nazarene, the only name given beneath heaven so that we may be saved, justified, redeemed, sanctified – why are we saying today that in the evening of life we will all be accepted in the kingdom of God? This would mean that this charity can be done, too. With his charity, God covers impious, blasphemers, murderers, immoral, idolaters and bring them all in his kingdom. First, the one who says these things should know that he declares the work of the Church useless. He also declares the entire Gospel false. He insults the blood of the martyrs and of the confessors of faith. The one who has the oil of faith can enlighten the Gospel with his light, can proclaim the Gospel under the light of his faith; however, he can never give his faith and his light to other people so that they be poured on them to enter the eternal kingdom of our God as unrighteous and unfair. The way of life is only one: the conversion and the faith in the Gospel, in the Word of Christ Jesus, in Christ Jesus. The one who does not want to go through this way should know that he walks toward the way of eternal perdition. The one who does not give the Gospel to his brothers should know that the eternal kingdom is locked for them. It is a most serious sin of omission for him. Everyone must remember that there is a charity that can never be given. Mother of God, Virgin rich in mercy, help us. We want to confess this truth.**