**SATURDAY OCTOBER 29 – XXX WEEK O.T. [C]**

**Rather, when you are invited, go and take the lowest place so that when the host comes to you he may say, 'My friend, move up to a higher position.' Then you will enjoy the esteem of your companions at the table.**

**Every disciple of Jesus is called to study, letting himself be helped by the Holy Spirit, his Teacher, so that he may imitate Him in all things, always guided and led by the most pure wisdom, understanding, science of the Spirit of God, though, who must nourish his heart as oxygen stokes fire and gives it the greatest splendour. If the Christian does not study Christ Jesus – and this is the only study necessary to him – he will go through history without introducing in it any truth, necessary for his salvation, his redemption, his sanctification. Who is the Christian and what is his mission? The Christian is the one who is called to bring the light of Christ Jesus in history, in each history, family, social, economic, financial, scientific, political, military history. He must also fill his life with the light of Christ the Lord. Today Jesus is in a Pharisee's house and He notices how every man is seeking ephemeral, vain glory. How one makes his life depend on the place he occupies in a banquet. If he occupies the first place, he feels full of himself. Instead, if one must occupy the last place, he feels as impaired, deprived of something. He immediately intervenes and puts the truth in everyone's heart. The place does not make man. Instead, man gives glory to the place. If man is rich in God, in any place he sits, he will always honour the place with his richness in truth, righteousness, peace. Instead, if he is filled with vices, he will dishonour the place occupied by him with his pride, lust, wrath, gluttony, envy, sloth, greed, foolishness and ignorance. Foolish by nature is the one who thinks that the place changes his nature, and from nature not brought into truth he makes it become nature of truth. Nature always remains unchanged. Are you learned? Any place you seat, your doctrine will shine. Are you holy? Any place you seat, you will enlighten the hearts with your holiness. Are you foolish and ignorant instead? Even though you had to occupy the first place among men, you will always remain foolish and ignorant. However, Jesus adds a truth that is difficult to accept today, since one is proclaiming the universal equality. Society is made up of many roles, many tasks, much work. For each of these roles, one acquires a particular dignity. There is the dignity of the chief priest, of the prince, of the chief of the synagogue, of the scribe, of the teacher. Now these dignities must be honoured. If a chief priest comes, it is a right thing to give him the first place. He is a person whose ministry is more significant. Then one makes a bad impression if one is invited to give up his place to the chief priest to occupy the last place. Instead, one receives honour, when from the last place the master of the house invites to occupy one of the first place. Here is what Jesus teaches: Use your wisdom. Measure your dignity. Act according to its measure. You will earn a great advantage and a great honour. But to do it, one must never think that the honour comes from the place. The honour is of the person. The person must find the reasons of his honour in himself.**

**Let us read the text of Lk 14,1.7-11**

**On a sabbath he went to dine at the home of one of the leading Pharisees, and the people there were observing him carefully. He told a parable to those who had been invited, noticing how they were choosing the places of honor at the table. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not recline at table in the place of honor. A more distinguished guest than you may have been invited by him, and the host who invited both of you may approach you and say, 'Give your place to this man,' and then you would proceed with embarrassment to take the lowest place. Rather, when you are invited, go and take the lowest place so that when the host comes to you he may say, 'My friend, move up to a higher position.' Then you will enjoy the esteem of your companions at the table. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."**

**Who is the humble according to the Holy Spirit? The one who has one only place to occupy and where to remain: dwelling and remaining in the heart of the Father, living and dwelling in Christ’s heart, always led, guided and placed by the Holy Spirit. When one lives and dwells in the heart of the heart of the Father, in the same way as Jesus lives and dwells in the heart of the Father, no place becomes important for man. He may even live in the lowest place, he is always in the heart of the Father. Jesus lived in a manger when He was born and He was always in the heart of the Father. He lived on the cross when He died and He was always in the heart of the Father. He lived in the hatred and in the envy of the children of his people and He was always in the heart of the Father. There has not been one only moment in which Jesus has left the heart of the Father. This has been his humbleness. This must be our humbleness. The choice is ours. If we dwell in the heart of the Father, we will always dwell where the Father dwells. If we do not dwell in the heart of the Father, we will choose where to live. However, this choice does not give truth to our life, neither completeness nor perfection. One receives truth, completeness, perfection only when one dwell in the heart of the Father. Jesus has never chosen a place where to dwell. He was always in the heart of the Father and the Holy Spirit led Him where the Father wanted Him to be led. Here is then what the true humbleness is: putting ourselves in the heart of the Father and let Him sit where He desires. Where the Holy Spirit leads us, there our place will be. A place chosen by God and not by us. Since Christ always chooses the last place, we too must choose the last place. If we choose other places, we are without Christ and without the Holy Spirit. Virgin Mary, Mother of God, clothe us with your humbleness. This is the only way to be pleasing to God.**