**TUESDAY JANUARY 17 – II WEEK O.T. [A]**

**"Have you never read what David did when he was in need and he and his companions were hungry? How he went into the house of God when Abiathar was high priest and ate the bread of offering that only the priests could lawfully eat, and shared it with his companions?"**

**The loaves of the offering were a most holy thing. No one could eat them. They were reserved to the priests, when they were substituted, on the eighth day. Before the hunger of David and of his companions, the priest is not afraid of giving them to eat. Neither does he think that with this gesture, he would have offended his Lord: “David went to Ahimelech, the priest of Nob, who came trembling to meet him and asked, "Why are you alone? Is there no one with you?" David answered the priest: "The king gave me a commission and told me to let no one know anything about the business on which he sent me or the commission he gave me. For that reason I have arranged a meeting place with my men. Now what have you on hand? Give me five loaves, or whatever you can find." But the priest replied to David, "I have no ordinary bread on hand, only holy bread; if the men have abstained from women, you may eat some of that." David answered the priest: "We have indeed been segregated from women as on previous occasions. Whenever I go on a journey, all the young men are consecrated - even for a secular journey. All the more so today, when they are consecrated at arms!" So the priest gave him holy bread, for no other bread was on hand except the showbread which had been removed from the LORD'S presence and replaced by fresh bread when it was taken away. One of Saul's servants was there that day, detained before the LORD; his name was Doeg the Edomite, and he was Saul's chief henchman. David then asked Ahimelech: "Do you have a spear or a sword on hand? I brought along neither my sword nor my weapons, because the king's business was urgent." The priest replied: "The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you killed in the Vale of the Terebinth, is here (wrapped in a mantle) behind an ephod. If you wish to take that, take it; there is no sword here except that one." David said: "There is none to match it. Give it to me!" (1Sam 21,2-10). In the great moral theology of the past – today this great moral theology is reduced to a pile of ash and of dust – one teaches that in the Law of the Lord one must always distinguish and separate the Commandments to the negative that are absolute and oblige semper pro semper – there is no human reason so that one transgresses them – and the Commandments to the positive that oblige semper but not pro semper. They do not oblige when there is a superior necessity of love. Honour thy father and thy mother always obliges. When there is a superior necessity of love, it no longer obliges. This is why Jesus can say: “Let the dead bury the dead. Come and follow me.”. Rise a heart to the life of the Gospel is a superior necessity of love. Thus is for the Law of the Sabbath, commandment to the positive. Before a superior necessity of love, it no longer obliges. Before the hunger of the disciples, one can pick the heads of grain, rub them with the hands and eat the precious fruit contained in it. It is not a servile work and one does not offend the Lord. We must always remind this superior necessity of love. The Levite and the priest have the obligation to serve in the temple of the Lord. It is a command given to them by the Lord. Before a superior necessity of love, one suspends this law of the service of the temple for a moment and one helps to the poor unfortunate reduced dying by the robbers and left by the wayside half dead with serious wounds. The Samaritan interrupts the law of enmity, stops and gives the necessary succour, pays the innkeeper. Superior necessity of love.**

**Let us read the text of Mk 2,23-28**

**As he was passing through a field of grain on the sabbath, his disciples began to make a path while picking the heads of grain. At this the Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they doing what is unlawful on the sabbath?" He said to them,** **"Have you never read what David did when he was in need and he and his companions were hungry? How he went into the house of God when Abiathar was high priest and ate the bread of offering that only the priests could lawfully eat, and shared it with his companions?" Then he said to them, "The sabbath was made for man, not man for the sabbath. That is why the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath."**

**We know that before the superior necessity to love, in the Saints Fathers of the Church we find that their teaching demands to unclothe an altar to cover a poor who is undressed or poorly clothed. The alter does not suffer from the cold. The poor might even die from the cold, instead. Today Jesus wants to teach that to each of his disciple and also to every man. Do you find yourself before a superior necessity of love? Devote yourself to serve this superior love. If, because of that, you have to leave the other Laws – unless they are not given to the negative – leave them all. Why can one transgress the Laws given to the negative? Because they are the supreme Law of love. No necessity of love is superior to that contained in the law given to the negative. You shall not kill is Law to the negative. One cannot take away the life to a man to love him with superior love. The respect of his life is the necessity of superior love. May the Mother of God help us enter the mystery of the necessity of superior love.**