**For he makes his sun rise on the bad and the good**

**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 27 (Mt 5,43-48)**

Our God, the only living and true God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, did not create the earth and all that is in it, for one man or for a group of people. He created it by giving it to every man. Let’s read the sacred text: *"Then God said: "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and the cattle, and over all the wild animals and all the creatures that crawl on the ground. " God created man in his image; in the divine image he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them, saying: "Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that move on the earth." God also said: "See, I give you every seed-bearing plant all over the earth and every tree that has seed-bearing fruit on it to be your food; and to all the animals of the land, all the birds of the air, and all the living creatures that crawl on the ground, I give all the green plants for food." And so it happened. God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good. Evening came, and morning followed - the sixth day. "(Gen 1, 26-31).*Since man is in the image and likeness of God, everything he does, he must do it for the benefit of every man. He must draw from the earth enough for his body, his spirit, his soul, everything else must share it with his brothers. The Lord has enclosed this rule of justice in His Commandments. To the rule of justice, He added the rule of holiness or universal love. Even the fruits of His heart which are love, mercy, goodness, charity, almsgiving and every other good He must pour out on every man, good, bad, righteous, unjust, without making any distinction.

Christ Jesus did not die for the righteous but for sinners: *“For Christ, while we were still helpless, yet died at the appointed time for the ungodly. Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. How much more then, since we are now justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath. Indeed, if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more, once reconciled, will we be saved by his life. Not only that, but we also boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. "(Rm 5, 6-11).*Since the Christian is the true body of Christ, he too must die for the Father to give life to the world. If he has to die, will he ever be able to limit his love to just the righteous, excluding those he considers ungodly and sinners? Love is just that: giving more to those who need more. Righteous and wicked need more, and everything must be given to them, even life for their conversion. The miracle of love.

*"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father, for he makes his sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust For if you love those who love you, what recompense will you have? Do not the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brothers only, what is unusual about that? Do not the pagans do the same? So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect.*

Being perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect means: giving our life for the salvation of the world. But also, to make every other man participate in our charity, mercy, forgiveness, benevolence. It is for our love that the other is converted. It is because of our mercy that the world believes in the Gospel. From our faith in the Gospel transformed into a work of great charity and mercy, the Lord will always give the grace of salvation for Christ, in Christ, with Christ. Who will be able to live this divine rule of doing good? Only those who grow in grace, wisdom, great poverty in spirit, always are moved and governed by the Holy Spirit.

Mother of the Redemption, Angels, Saints, let us grow in wisdom and grace.