**As also your Father is merciful**

**MONDAY MARCH 1 (Lk 6, 36-38)**

Ancient Scripture reveals that everything is the work of the Lord’s great mercy which never fails: *“ Praise the LORD, for he is good; for his mercy endures forever; Praise the God of gods; for his mercy endures forever; Praise the Lord of lords; for his mercy endures forever; Who alone has done great wonders, for his mercy endures forever; Who skillfully made the heavens, for his mercy endures forever; Who spread the earth upon the waters, for his mercy endures forever; Who made the great lights, for his mercy endures forever; The sun to rule the day, for his mercy endures forever; The moon and stars to rule the night, for his mercy endures forever; Who struck down the firstborn of Egypt, for his mercy endures forever; And led Israel from their midst, for his mercy endures forever; With mighty hand and outstretched arm, for his mercy endures forever; Who split in two the Red Sea, for his mercy endures forever; And led Israel through its midst, for his mercy endures forever;*

*But swept Pharaoh and his army into the Red Sea, for his mercy endures forever; Who led the people through the desert, for his mercy endures forever; Who struck down great kings, for his mercy endures forever; Slew powerful kings, for his mercy endures forever; Sihon, king of the Amorites, for his mercy endures forever; Og, king of Bashan, for his mercy endures forever; And made their lands a heritage, for his mercy endures forever; A heritage for Israel, his servant, for his mercy endures forever. The Lord remembered us in our low estate, for his mercy endures forever; Freed us from our foes, for his mercy endures forever; And gives bread to all flesh, for his mercy endures forever. Praise the God of heaven, for his mercy endures forever. " (Ps 136 (135) 1-26).*The Psalmist announces that everything - from the creation of heaven and earth to the last events experienced by the Lord’s people - is to be considered the purest work of the Lord’s mercy or love. The Old Covenant is replaced by the New. The work happening in the New Covenant, therefore, in Christ and in his body, which is the Church, is all the work of the Father’s mercy. Everything is from His love and for His love. Here is how the Apostle Paul announces this great mystery: *"Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access (by faith) to this grace in which we stand , and we boast in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we even boast of our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope, and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us. " (Rm 5, 1-5).*This is the truth of our God. Not others.

*Be merciful, just as (also) your Father is merciful. "Stop judging and you will not be judged. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven. Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you. "*

Jesus asks his disciples to be merciful like the Father who is in heaven. It means that the Christian must do everything with love and for love. Just as that of the Father is never failing universal love, so too the love of the Christian must be universal and never failing. As the Father so loved the world that he gave his Only Son, also the Christian must love the world to allow himself to be given by the Father for the salvation and redemption of every man. This can happen if the Christian every day allows himself to be filled with the Holy Spirit and moved by him so that his love may be ever more perfect and without measure as without measure is the Father’s love for him. The Christian does not produce good works. He makes of himself a work of mercy and love for the world, for every man. It is the Christian’s vocation. He must manifest how great the mercy of the heavenly Father is. It must manifest it in every place, in every man.

Mother of the Redemption, Angels, Saints, make of us the mercy of the Father for the world.