**Which is the first of all the commandments?**

**FRIDAY MARCH 12 (Mk 12, 28-34)**

Reading Deuteronomy and the book of Leviticus, from which Jesus’ answer is taken, one must come to only one answer: There is not a first and not even a second commandment. Instead, there is the whole Law of the Father, either the Law that dictates the justice necessary to love, either the other Law of divine Holiness which elevates justice and transforms it into great charity and mercy:*"These then are the commandments, the statutes and decrees which the LORD, your God, has ordered that you be taught to observe in the land into which you are crossing for conquest, so that you and your son and your grandson may fear the LORD, your God, and keep , throughout the days of your lives, all his statutes and commandments which I enjoin on you, and thus have long life. Hear then, Israel, and be careful to observe them, that you may grow and prosper the more, in keeping with the promise of the LORD, the God of your fathers, to give you a land flowing with milk and honey. "Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone! Therefore, you shall love the LORD, your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength. Take to heart these words which I enjoin on you today. Drill them into your children. Speak of them at home and abroad, whether you are busy or at rest. Bind them at your wrist as a sign and let them be as a pendant on your forehead. "(Dt 6, 1-8)*Whoever obeys the Lord loves the Lord. Obedience is to every Word that comes out of his mouth. No word is greater, and none is smaller, because they are all "Word of God".

To understand well how one loves one’s neighbor from the Word according to the Law of divine holiness, it is right that one reads Chapters XVIII, XIX, XX of Leviticus. The neighbor is to be loved like everyone loves oneself. Since no one can love oneself if not by the Word of the Lord, even the neighbor has to be loved by the Word of the Lord: *"The LORD said to Moses," Speak to the whole Israelite community and tell them: Be holy, for I, the LORD your God, am holy. You shall not defraud or rob your neighbor. You shall not withhold overnight the wages of your day laborer. You shall not curse the deaf, or put a stumbling block in front of the blind, but you shall fear your God. I am the LORD. "You shall not act dishonestly in rendering judgment. Show neither partiality to the weak nor deference to the mighty, but judge your fellow men justly. You shall not go about spreading slander among your kinsmen; nor shall you stand by idly when your neighbor's life is at stake. I am the LORD. When an alien resides with you in your land, do not molest him. You shall treat the alien who resides with you no differently than the natives born among you; have the same love for him as for yourself; for you too were once aliens in the land of Egypt. I, the LORD, am your God” (Cf. Lev 1 9 , 1-37).*It is not man who decides how to love others, it is rather God who tells man what he must do to love each other with truth, and love the neighbor as oneself. In our faith, we love ourselves and we love each other by obedience to the Word.

*One of the scribes, when he came forward and heard them disputing and saw how well he had answered them, asked him, "Which is the first of all the commandments?" Jesus replied, "The first is this: 'Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord alone! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength . ' The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these. " The scribe said to him, "Well said, teacher. You are right in saying, 'He is One and there is no other than he.' And 'to love him with all your heart, with all your understanding, with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself' is worth more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices. " And when Jesus saw that (he) answered with understanding, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And no one dared to ask him any more questions.*

Even Jesus loved his neighbor as himself. Loving himself doing all the Father’s will in obedience to it until the death of the cross. If Jesus Christ had not obeyed the Father, he would have not loved Himself and never could have loved the man with a love of salvation, redemption, justification.

Mother of the Redemption, Angels, Saints, let us love each other and love from the Word.