**Two people went up to the temple area to pray**

**SATURDAY MARCH 13 (Lk 18, 9-14)**

Solomon in his high prayer to the Lord on the day of the consecration of the temple, reveals that there is no man who does only good and does not sin: "*When they sin against you (for there is no man who does not sin), and in your anger against them you deliver them to the enemy, so that their captors deport them to a hostile land, far or near, may they repent in the land of their captivity and be converted. If then they entreat you in the land of their captors and say, 'We have sinned and done wrong; we have been wicked ' if with their whole heart and soul they turn back to you in the land of the enemies who took them captive, pray to you toward the land you gave their fathers, the city you have chosen, and the temple I have built in your honor, listen from your heavenly dwelling. Forgive your people their sins and all the offenses they have committed against you, and grant them mercy before their captors, so that these will be merciful to them. For they are your people and your inheritance, whom you brought out of Egypt, from the midst of an iron furnace." (1 Kings 8, 46-51)*. Everyone needs to be forgiven by the Lord. Even the Pharisee needs forgiveness.

While the Psalmist sings the beauty of the Law, he teaches that there are omissions and hidden sins that are not even seen. There is also the great and grave sin of pride. For the omissions he asks forgiveness and also asks that the Lord free him from all pride: *“The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul. The decree of the LORD is trustworthy, giving wisdom to the simple. The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart. The command of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eye. The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The statutes of the LORD are true, all of them just; More desirable than gold, than a hoard of purest gold, Sweeter also than honey or drippings from the comb. By them your servant is warned; obeying them brings much reward. Who can detect trespasses? Cleanse me from my inadvertent sins. Also from arrogant ones restrain your servant; let them never control me. Then shall I be blameless, innocent of grave sin. Let the words of my mouth be acceptable, the thoughts of my heart before you, LORD, my rock and my redeemer. "(Ps 19 (18) 8-15).*The Pharisee is devoured by the sin of pride. He is in the temple to declaim his virtues before the Lord. In addition, he is there to despise one of his brothers whom he judges to be a sinner and not even worthy to enter the holy temple. The temple belongs to the saints, not to sinners. It is as though he were telling the Lord not to listen to that prayer. However, he does not pray. He is only self-praising.

*He then addressed this parable to those who were convinced of their own righteousness and despised everyone else. "Two people went up to the temple area to pray; one was a Pharisee and the other was a tax collector. The Pharisee took up his position and spoke this prayer to himself, 'O ​​God, I thank you that I am not like the rest of humanity - greedy, dishonest, adulterous - or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, and I pay tithes on my whole income. ' But the tax collector stood off at a distance and would not even raise his eyes to heaven but beat his breast and prayed, 'O God, be merciful to me a sinner.' I tell you, the latter went home justified, not the former; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted. "*

It is grave pride not to recognize one’s sins. Before the Lord we are all sinners. We all need his forgiveness and mercy. Whoever asks for forgiveness for his sins, will always have mercy on his brothers, sinners like him. Whoever asks for forgiveness does not judge them. Whoever asks for forgiveness does not condemn them. Whoever asks for forgiveness pray also the Lord that the sins of his brothers will be forgiven. Whoever obtains mercy from the Lord must always implore mercy for every other man. For the disciples of Jesus this law obliges because of their condition of being one body. The whole body prays for the whole body. The whole body asks for forgiveness for the whole body. But the whole body must also sanctify the whole body. If we are one body, we must be one mercy.

Mother of the Redemption, Angels, Saints, make Christians live as one body.