**THURSDAY JULY 15 – XV WEEK O.T. [B]**

**"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.**

**Christ Jesus is the grace and the truth of the Father. He is the revelation of the Father in which he is also the revelation of every man. He is the life of the Father in which there is every life. These gifts should be accepted. Jesus is always ready to give them to us. We, too, should be ready to accept them. “Come to me…” manifests and reveals the will of the man that is called into question. The gift is there, it is for everyone. To the gift, should one go. To the gift is one invited to go. Not only should those who are satiated, who are fine, who live in the abundance and in the richness of the things of this world accept the gift. These ones are not invited. To them, Jesus is useless. He is of no use. They have everything. They do not need Christ Jesus. Instead, those who labor and are burdened need Christ. They are tired because of the hard work of living life, of leading it forward, of getting to the end of the evening. They are tired because of the great difficulties they face on their way day after day.**

**Instead, the burden is an additional weight that is put on the shoulders of those who already labor. It is as if, to a person who already carries an intolerable burden, one had put another one a thousand times greater. To those who are without any prospective of future neither for the body nor for the soul, Jesus says to come to Him. What does He do to all world who labor and is burdened? He gives his rest. What is the rest Jesus gives? The rest of Jesus is gift to man of his true humanity. When our humanity comes back to its truth, it leaves the slavery of sin, the tiredness of vice, the oppression of evil, the hard work of disobedience. It enters the rest of Jesus that gives the friendship of the Lord that is fullness of joy. The rest of Jesus is gift of true freedom. “You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free”. Falsity oppresses, truth makes free. Lie suffocates, the Word of the Lord is breathe of holiness. Error makes us slaves, the Gospel makes us true children of the unique Father. The rest of Jesus is the gift of the true adoptive childhood, of the Household of the Father regained. The rest of Christ is his quenching our thirst of eternal life.**

**The gift of Christ Jesus is not enough. It is necessary that the gift is accepted, since only in the acceptance it will be all ours. Today this is the truth that is failed in the heart of many ones, who also teach, with a great damage to the life of the righteous and holy faith, that it is not necessary that one goes. The gift is given. Either we go or we do not go it is already ours. This is the foolishness that is destroying the world. This is the foolishness that is source of every transgression of commandments and every barbarization of the society and of life itself. The gift is given. We must own it. We must go to Christ Jesus. One goes to Him, converting and believing in the Gospel. Jesus is the only one who rests those who go to Him: the rest of Jesus is the most pure gift of grace and of truth. Grace and truth make man new, they put him in the condition of living in conformity to his nature, better, they make him live in a nature that is made participant of the divine nature. It is nature that is even more wonderful.**

**Let us read the text of Mt 11,28-30**

**"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for your selves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."**

**The yoke is the Gospel, the Word of the Father, the Law, the New Commandment Jesus has come to bring to our earth. The yoke is his doctrine of salvation and redemption for the entire humankind.**

**Not only does Jesus invite us to take his yoke upon us, his Word, the most pure and perfect will of the Father taught, preached, proclaimed, explained by Him with every knowledge and wisdom of Holy Spirit, proclaimed as unique and only way of salvation and redemption. Jesus also wants us to learn from Him how one brings the yoke of the Word and of truth, of knowledge and of wisdom, of the entire will of God that has been given to us so that we live it in full obedience. He should be looked at as the Teacher who says and does, teaches and carries out, commands and obeys, give the yoke but he brings it until the end so that we all know how one has to obey God. From Jesus should we learn two essential virtues: humility and meekness. With humility, we entirely subject ourselves to the Lord, accepting all his will toward us in our heart. With meekness, one gives oneself to God. We give ourselves to his Word, to his Gospel, to every desire He has toward us. We are entirely and forever of the Lord, we are by Him and for Him, but also in Him and with Him.**

**With meekness we do not let ourselves be overwhelmed by the violence of men, neither be polluted by their free and nonsense wickedness. With meekness we subject ourselves to the sin of men, to the yoke of their oppression, of their wickedness, of their mockery, of their spits, of their scourges, of their cross, carrying every sufferance until the end. With meekness, one lives the passion in the greatest holiness, without even a thought of evil against our persecutors. With meekness, one lives all the cruel oppression of men in the greatest patience and endurance.**

**Taking the yoke of Christ Jesus with humility and meekness, man enters the true rest, since he enters the true peace. The true rest of Jesus is his glorious resurrection. It is the eternal glory of heaven. The Eucharist is the true rest of Jesus. Eaten with true faith and true hunger, it rests the soul, the spirit, the body. The Eucharist is the true oasis of eternal life in the desert of the life we have to cross to reach the eternal Homeland of heaven. The rest of Jesus is the gift of the eternal life, of Paradise, where the soul has a rest from all its fatigues. The rest of Jesus is the Holy Spirit, given to the faithful in Him, to create true communion of peace and life with God and his brothers. Without the rest of Christ, we are thirsty without water in the desert.**

**The yoke of Jesus is easy. The yoke of sin is death. The burden of Christ is light. The burden of vice heavy, crushing. The Law of Jesus is easy. The law of sin is harsh, most bitter, it is a poison of death. The yoke of Jesus is without any cost, since it is a gift of eternal life. The yoke of sin has a very expensive cost, a cost of death. The yoke of Jesus gives us life. The yoke of sin takes it away. Sin costs and bears death. Virtue has no cost and generates life. Virtue makes us free. Sin makes us its slaves. Today Jesus invites us to freedom. To each of us he asks to accept his invitation. Whoever refuses the invitation of Christ knows that he remains slave of his vices and his eternal death. Either free with Christ or slaves without Him. Everyone is called to choose the freedom with Christ, in Christ, for Christ. Freedom is a choice. It is a choice since it is a gift and an invitation. Slavery is already ours as inheritance of Adam.**

**Jesus asks everyone to take his yoke. The yoke of Jesus is his Word, his Law, his Revelation, the gift of the perfect and holy will of the Father. His yoke gives the true salvation, the true redemption, the true justification of man. His yoke gives man the fullness in the truth of his humanity. Whoever wants to know oneself, can do it at one only condition: taking the yoke of the law of Jesus and carrying it until the end. The yoke of Christ is suave: the Law of Jesus is not bitter, is not harsh, is not poison of death. The Word of Jesus is suave, sweet, loving, appealing, desirable. The Gospel, put upon our neck and taken with love, let us enter the sweetness and suaveness of Christ the Lord. The burden of Christ is light: the burden of Christ is light, compared to vices that are heavy, mortifying, that kill and do not give life. Sin is slavery, the Law of Jesus is freedom. Vice makes man a shred, the Gospel rises him until the doorway of Paradise. The burden of sin has a very expensive cost and a cost of death. The burden of Jesus, instead, has a cost of eternal life and everlasting glory.**

**May the Mother of God take us by hand and lead us to her Son. We will have every rest. Amen.**