**FRIDAY JULY 16 – XV WEEK O.T. [B]**

**“If you knew what this meant, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned these innocent men. For the Son of Man is Lord of the sabbath."**

**Mercy is the only sacrifice pleasing to God. Before the mercy to live and to practice, all the other sacrifices cease, all of them. To the external worship, lived without man and often against man, Jesus gives the law of mercy as unique and only worship to offer the Lord. His death on the cross is the worship of the true mercy, of compassion, of charity. Since always, the Scripture has protested against this vision of worship, as if the truth of man and of God were in it. The truth of man is not in the worship. It is in the mercy and in the obedience to the Law of the Lord, to his Word, to his manifested Will.**

**Faith is something quite different from the religion that men often make, even the men of God. Faith is made up of mercy and of most pure obedience. Instead, religion is made up of human thoughts that with art, ability, great mastery are introduced into the Word of the Lord. First, Jesus had said about himself that he was greater than the temple. Now he says another most great truth: the Son of man is lord of sabbath. The Son of man is lord of sabbath since He is God in his Person. He is God since eternity. He is God for eternal generation. He is God since he is the Only Begotten Son of the Father. Being the God who has given the sabbath, he is also the God giving the right interpretation of the Law of sabbath.**

**He is the true Teacher, since He is the Lord of the Law. He knows the will of the Father, since He knows the true essence of the Father. He does not speak out of the Law, he speaks from the inside, he speaks by his divine essence, namely by the will of the Father who gave the Law. All the evils of the world dwell in our exteriority before the Law. We speak from the external, from the outside, by our thoughts, by our will, often even by our heart hardened by the lack of true love and authentic mercy. We often speak by our conveniences, by what we, with our vain reasoning, think it is pleasing to God. The Lord is pleased of only one thing: of our perfect obedience without nothing added and nothing removed from the Law, and of our mercy that we turn into true worship to render to God in favour of his children. The impurity of our mind almost always makes religion impure.**

**Let us read from the text of Mt 12,1-8**

**At that time Jesus was going through a field of grain on the sabbath. His disciples were hungry and began to pick the heads of grain and eat them. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to him, "See, your disciples are doing what is unlawful to do on the sabbath." He said to them, "Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were hungry, how he went into the house of God and ate the bread of offering, which neither he nor his companions but only the priests could lawfully eat? Or have you not read in the law that on the sabbath the priests serving in the temple violate the sabbath and are innocent? I say to you, something greater than the temple is here. If you knew what this meant, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned these innocent men. For the Son of Man is Lord of the sabbath."**

**Jesus is the Lord of the sabbath: He is the Lord since in his Person He is the true God. He is the true God come into flesh. Into flesh, the true God is also true man. Being the Lord of the Sabbath, he can give the just, exact, perfect interpretation of the Law. He is the Author of the Law and the Interpret, too. No interpretation might be said to be true if it contrasts what he offers and gives. Jesus is greater than the temple: He is greater than the temple since He is the New Temple, in which God corporally dwells with the fullness of his divinity. He is greater than the temple, since his flesh is the unique and only temple of God. God dwelled in the temple of Jerusalem. The Word made itself living temple of God. The temple of flesh is indissolubly combined with the Person of the Word. The Word and the temple are one only Person. “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us”. Jesus is the servant of the Lord: He is the Servant who carries out the will of God in everything in a vicarious, expiating sufferance. He is the Servant who takes upon himself the punishment of our sins. He is the Servant who heals us with his plagues.**

**Jesus is the beloved of the Father: He is the Beloved since he is the Son. He is the Son generated by Him in the eternity. The mystery of the Messiah of God is great. He is not simply a man. He is the God who made himself man. He is the Only Begotten Son who made himself man. The Father is pleased of Jesus. God is pleased of his Servant since This One lives of perfect, complete, full obedience. He lives to obey the Father. In the eternity and in time the Son has always addressed to the Father to carry out his will: “Your will be done, on earth as in heaven.” Jesus is full of Holy Spirit: the Holy Spirit has placed himself upon Him with the fullness of his gifts: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, fear of the Lord. Being He the eternal Son of the Father, upon Him the Spirit of piety has also placed, too. Piety is the filial love. The Servant lives to love the Father. This is the aim of his life. Jesus is the envoy by the universal mission: Jesus has not been sent to reveal the mystery of the Father only to Hebrews. He has been sent to give the true God, the only true God to all the people. One can know the true God only through Jesus and where Jesus does not reign in the hearts with his word and his grace, there the true God is not known. Jesus has to let the true justice be known to all the people. Jesus has come to say to every man what the Father wants and what is pleasing to Him. He only has been invested of this mission. He only is the true revealer of the Father. In Jesus, all the people will hope. The power of penetration of the Word of Jesus in the hearts dwells in this hope. Hearts hope. Jesus reveals what is the true subject of their hope. They listen to the desires that are already in their hearts, accept the Word, take their life again. If this hope were not latent in the hearts, the Word might not be accepted. The God giving the Word is also the God creating the hope that is the key through which the Word may enter into hearts. The mystery of God is great. He acts in the man by internal way and external way. Salvation is fulfilled when the internal way meets the external way. If this meeting does not happen, the salvation is not still full and perfect. It is a salvation that one hopes, that is not ours, yet. Jesus is the strongest one: Jesus is stronger than Satan. As God, He is his Lord, his Creator. God had created him of light. It was he who wanted to turn up into darkness with his pride. He is stronger in his humanity, since he is most holy, since He is full of grace and of truth. With the truth, he unmasks his falsities. With grace, he wins them. Grace is stronger than every evil. Truth pierces every darkness. Jesus speaks by the fullness of his heart full of love: the heart of Jesus is full of love for man. For this reason, the language of Jesus is most pure and intense love. The heart of the Pharisees is full of plunder and iniquities. For this reason, words of hate, of envy, of killing, of every falsity and lie come out their heart. Every person is his heart. If the heart is true, the person is true. If the heart is holy, the person is holy. If the heart is wicked, the person cannot be anything else but wicked.**

**Jesus presents himself in the sign of Jonah: Jesus remains on earth, or in its womb, only for three nights and three days, from the evening of Friday to the early morning of the first day after the Sabbath. Then he rises and always remains with us, even if in the shape of the immortal spirit and no longer in the shape of the mortal flesh. The sign Jesus gives is his resurrection. Jesus constitutes his new family: all those who accept the Word of God and put it into practice are family of Jesus. This family is ruled by one only Law: the love until the gift of all the life for the life of another one. This is what Christ Jesus did with the entire humankind. Having assumed our flesh, he has become our relative and, like this, he has paid the ransom for us, freeing us from sin and death.**

**Mother of the Only Begotten Son of the Father, teach us to believe in Jesus with the most pure truth of the Holy Spirit.**