**TUESDAY JULY 20 – XVI WEEK O.T. [B]**

**But he said in reply to the one who told him, "Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?" And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of my heavenly Father is my brother, and sister, and mother."**

**Today Jesus receives the visit of his Mother and his brothers. They wish to speak to Him, but they cannot. The crowd is huge. Jesus is unapproachable. Not by his will, but because of the circumstances that had come to create. The mother of Jesus and his brothers, however, are not among the crowd, they do not blend in it. They are outside, apart. They are rather isolated from the people. Someone sees what is happening and informs the Teacher: "Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, asking to speak with you." This is an act of concern, courtesy, kindness, toward both Jesus and his Mother. When one can do some good, it is fair to do it. Sometimes it is more appropriate to take initiatives regarding the good to be done. The initiative in the good is always to be recommended, even if it is then fair to leave the other all the freedom to do it according to the dictates of his own conscience, that, if it is righteous and holy, is always in a perennial state of obedience to the Lord.**

**Apparently, Jesus seems to lose interest in his Mother and his brothers. Instead, on a careful analysis, we must say that it is exactly the contrary. Jesus does not disown his Mother. He sees his mother as the true model of every true maternity toward him. He sees his brothers as example of spiritual relatedness, extended family. By faith, one really enters into another order of ideas. By faith, other thoughts must guide and lead us. By faith, the statute itself of man changes. Faith opens infinite horizons to every man. Faith is not just a new relationship that one establishes with God. The new relationship embraces all the men of faith. These ones are called to think about themselves in a different way, to see themselves in a different way, to relate to themselves in a different way. In the faith, every man becomes true brother of Jesus, he becomes true brother of every other man of faith. In the faith, the law of relatedness is extended to every other man of faith. In the faith, the other is not a stranger, a foreigner, an outsider, a distant one. In the faith, the other is a brother, a true brother. In the faith, the other is a mother, a true mother. This is the surprising news opening to us by the mean of faith. Jesus extends the maternity of his Mother and the brotherhood of his brothers to every man. In the faith one leaves the tight and confined borders of the relatedness according to flesh. One enters the infinite world of the relatedness according to the spirit. Jesus indicates the entire crowd as his mother and as his brother. The universality of relatedness is the true new law of the faith. True and holy relatedness with all the obligations it involved and involves. One of the greatest obligations of relatedness was precisely the ransom. Jesus was able to redeem humanity just because of the natural relatedness assumed with the Incarnation. This is valid for the relatedness according to flesh, it is more valid for the relatedness according to the spirit. Really sublime law. Jesus saves and redeems us, He ransoms and regains us to God precisely pursuant his brotherhood with us. Jesus places this law as a fundament of every relationship among his disciples. With this law, he changes the statute of the relationships among those who believe in Him. These ones are no longer single people, separated from each other, but they do form a true family. This is the brotherhood that can only be fulfilled in Jesus.**

**LET US READ THE TEXT OF Mt 12,46-50**

**While he was still speaking to the crowds, his mother and his brothers appeared outside, wishing to speak with him. (Someone told him, "Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, asking to speak with you.") But he said in reply to the one who told him, "Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?" And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of my heavenly Father is my brother, and sister, and mother."**

**Faith is not pure and simple adhesion to Christ Jesus. Faith is true only when it is turned into obedience. It is in this sole moment that every man becomes his brother, his sister, his mother. It is in this sole moment that one constitutes the new human family on our earth. The obedience to the Father of Jesus, who is the sole and unique Creator and Lord of heaven and earth, is the essential point so that one becomes family of Jesus. When one steps outside of fulfilling the will of his Father, one steps outside of being family of Jesus and Jesus cannot do anything else for our redemption, He can no longer ransom us. He can no longer redeem us since we have decided not to be his brothers any longer. The Virgin Mary is true Mother of Jesus, Mother according to flesh since She has been the first Mother according to the Spirit, Mother of obedience and love, Mother of total abandonment in the will of God. The mystery of the Maternity of the Virgin Mary is great. She is the Mother of all the mothers of Jesus and the Mother of those who are the brothers and the sisters of Jesus. The Virgin Mary is the Mother of the new family of acquisition of Jesus. Jesus constitutes his new family: the family of Jesus are all those who accept the Word of God and put it into practice. This family is ruled by one only law: the love until the gift of the entire life for the life of the other. This is what Jesus did for the entire humankind. Having assumed our flesh, he became our related and, like this, he paid the ransom for us, freeing us from sin and death.**

**Some further word of light is still necessary. Why “Whoever does the will of my heavenly Father is my brother, and sister, and mother.”? This all is because it is generated in him, it arises from the Father. Let us observe well and we will understand. Mary has given physical life to the Son. Mother according to flesh. This relationship is of nature, even if in Mary it has been for most pure faith. In Mary, another most high wonder is fulfilled. Mary was generated in Christ, in Christ raised to the highest of perfection, in Christ brought to the highest of the holiness, in Christ entirely immersed in the Holy Spirit without any measure. Mary is the one who generates Christ and she is also the one who is generated in Christ for the Holy Spirit. This mystery itself, even if in a totally different way, must be fulfilled in every man. The generated by Adam must become the generated in Christ for the Spirit. This double mystery that has been fulfilled in Mary, by now just mentioned, will deserve further insights. The greatness of the Mother of Christ demands it.**

**Here is the change of relationship. One goes from the received life to the given life. Who is the true brother of Jesus? Who is his true mother and his true brother? Whoever lets Christ give him his truth, his grace, his light, his eternal life, his Word. The one who is true brother of Jesus is the one who is reborn in Him. He is true brother of Christ, since his true brother, the one who lets himself be regenerated by water and Holy Spirit, becomes his body, and, as his true body, becomes adoptive son of the Father, participant of his divine nature. Who is true brother of Christ? The one who, by Jesus, through the work of his Holy Spirit, is generated to new life. Mary is true Mother of Jesus since she was made true disciple of Her Son by the Holy Spirit, true receiver of the life of God. Here is who is the true brother, the true mother, the true sister of Jesus. The true brotherhood with Jesus is not a simple declaration. It is instead brotherhood for true generation, true birth in Christ by water and by Holy Spirit. If one does not pass through the way of the baptism, no true brotherhood with Christ might be created. It is true. Jesus, for the mystery of the Incarnation, is brother of every son of Adam. Every son of Adam must become in Him true Son of the Father. One believes in Christ, one lets himself be baptised. One is born in Him as true son of the Father. One is his brother according to faith.**

**May the Mother of God help us to understand the mystery. The other brotherhood are affected by sin.**