**JULY 25 – XVII WEEK O.T. [B]**

**Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed them to those who were reclining, and also as much of the fish as they wanted. When they had had their fill, he said to his disciples, "Gather the fragments left over, so that nothing will be wasted."**

**Jesus goes up to the mountain. The mountain is silence, loneliness, but above all closeness with God. Jesus always seeks this closeness with the Father. The closeness with the Father is life for Him. Jesus daily draws the life from the Father. Jesus always lives from the Father and for the Father. He draws the life from the Father, he lives for the Father. It is a gift of eternal life: from the Father he receives it, to the Father he gives it in a most pure and most holy obedience. Jesus sees a great crowd and says to Philip: "Where can we buy enough food for them to eat?" Jesus is the man of pure, holy, righteous heart. A holy heart is also a heart full of charity and of love, of compassion and of piety. The more the heart is holy and the more the charity of God devours it, consumes it. The holy heart is perennially devoured by the charity of his God, since his God is charity. God is charity. The heart of Jesus, filled of the holiness of God, is charity, too. Charity does not give itself peace until the other is in the need, in the necessity, in the deprivation, in the misery, in the hunger, in the nakedness, in the thirsty, in the sickness. Whoever wants to raise a population in the charity must raise it in holiness. Whoever has little love is also little saint. Whoever loves a lot is also very holy.**

**Jesus tests Philip. He wants to check the degree of perfection of his growing in the holiness. Jesus knows the degree of holiness of Philip. He wants us to know it, too, so that this would be a good soul-searching for us. The saint always knows how to love. This is the characteristic of holiness: always knowing how to love, before every event, every person. Philip is little saint, since he is capable of little love. He is little saint, since he still reasons and thinks with the eyes of flesh and not with those of the Holy Spirit. Philip is little saint since he does not see the Father yet, he does not see his Omnipotence, he does not see his endless Charity. Philip is still a man of the earth since he thinks according to earth. The crowd is very numerous. Two hundred days' wages worth of food would not be enough for each of them to have a little (bit). His answer is very meaningful: this crowd, Jesus, cannot have their fill. We have no means. There is an inequality between what we could do and what it should be done. We cannot love.**

**Elijah fed a widow with only a little olive oil and handful of flour, Elisha fed a hundred men with twenty loaves of new barley. Now what will Jesus do? Jesus replies to Andrew and Philip:** **"Have the people recline." It is spring. There is a great deal of grass. Everyone reclines. The amounting of the crowd is indicated: men, alone, are overall five thousand. They are five for a thousand. Taken the number in a symbolic sense, it is extremely high. There are five loaves. It is as if each loaf has to feed thousands of people. A loaf is for an infinite quantity of people.**

**Let us read the text of Jn 6, 1-15**

**After this, Jesus went across the Sea of Galilee (of Tiberias). A large crowd followed him, because they saw the signs he was performing on the sick. Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. The Jewish feast of Passover was near. When Jesus raised his eyes and saw that a large crowd was coming to him, he said to Philip, "Where can we buy enough food for them to eat?" He said this to test him, because he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Two hundred days' wages worth of food would not be enough for each of them to have a little (bit)." One of his disciples, Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?" Jesus said, "Have the people recline." Now there was a great deal of grass in that place. So the men reclined, about five thousand in number. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed them to those who were reclining, and also as much of the fish as they wanted. When they had had their fill, he said to his disciples, "Gather the fragments left over, so that nothing will be wasted." So they collected them, and filled twelve wicker baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves that had been more than they could eat. When the people saw the sign he had done, they said, "This is truly the Prophet, the one who is to come into the world." Since Jesus knew that they were going to come and carry him off to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain alone.**

**Jesus takes the loaves. He give thanks to God. Jesus asks the Father in the silent prayer, of the heart, that He multiplies the loaves. He loudly thanks the Father for having heard him. Jesus has a faith thinking to the miracle happened when the miracle is still to be fulfilled. He thanks the Father since he knows that the Father always hears Him. He hears the Father. The Father hears Him.**

**After everyone had had their fill, Jesus gives this order to his disciple: "Gather the fragments left over, so that nothing will be wasted." From this order of Jesus, we have to highlight some truths. First truth: of every gift of God, nothing must be lost. The waste is against the law of Providence of God. God does not give us his gifts so that we waste them. If we do not need one thing, someone else needs it. Everything must be gathered of what is left over. Second truth: it is commitment of the disciples of the Lord to gather the pieces left. The Christian community lives of pieces left over to the others. Organising the charity is a high work of the Christian and of every disciple of the Lord. Organising the charity is the essence and the form of the life of a Christian community, since the Christian community lives of charity and for charity. Third truth: the first organization of the charity is personal. Everyone must gather all the fragments so that, with them, he can put himself at the service of the charity of the brothers. The fragments are of material and also spiritual order. One needs to start organizing the charity gathering the fragments of the time that are lost day after day and so it is with every other material thing: food, clothes, money, other things. Fourth truth: everyone must be an organizer of the charity for his brothers. He must do that with his example and with his teaching, as well. Today the gaps on this front are endless. Fifth truth: the testimony of charity is essence and credibility of our faith. We are faithful if we are people rich in charity. We are credible if our charity is well visible in the public eye.**

**From the sign, people operates the step to the faith in Christ Jesus. What do people believe? They believe that: "This is truly the Prophet, the one who is to come into the world." The crowd sees Jesus not only as the prophet, but also as the Messiah. Since they see Him as the Messiah, they decide to proclaim Him king. The text says: “They were going to come and carry him off to make him king.” Knowing this, what does Jesus do? He withdraws on the mountain, he alone. Why does Jesus take refuge on the mountain, he alone, seeking a refuge in his Father? Because the vision of the royalty people have and the one belonging to the Father of Jesus do not match. They are two different royalties. People want a royalty of this world. The Father, instead, wants a royalty of that world. People want Jesus as king of this world. Instead, the Father does not want Jesus as king of this world. People want to change, alter, modify, transform the royal mission of Jesus. Jesus knows that this is a temptation for Him and takes refuge in His Father, alone. He goes to the Father to found the truth of his mission in Him. Every mission comes from the Father. But every mission is transformed by man at his pleasing. Many people let the mission be transformed by history, by people, by events, by circumstances, by the needs of people. The salvation of the world is operated only by the truth of the mission and the truth is only one: the one set by the Father since the eternity. Is the Christian not changing the mission today? From light of the world and salt of the earth, is he not turning into darkness and in salt that lost the flavour? When one receives a mission and then he transforms it the Lord withdraws and we are abandoned to ourselves. Every mission received must be kept in its initial purity. Nothing must be changed to it. May the Mother of God help us to keep our mission pure.**