**24 JULY – XVII WEEK O. T. [C]**

**If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the Father in heaven give the holy Spirit to those who ask him?**

**God has an eternal desire in his heart: loving man, his creature made in his image and likeness, with eternal love. This desire and this will is revealed to us through the mean of the prophet Jeremiah: “The LORD appears to him from afar: With age-old love I have loved you; so I have kept my mercy toward you.” (Jer 31, 3) The eternal love with which the Father loves us is Christ Jesus, the Eternal Only Begotten Son of the Father. The Son comes, takes on our flesh, takes all the sins of humanity on Him and expiates them on the wood of the cross. Through this divine and human charity, the Father forgives us and introduces us in his house, makes us his kin, his true children. However, this work happens through the eternal love of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit pours out from the pierced heart of Christ Jesus and it pours out to create the new man, the new creature. When is this miracle accomplished? When we are born of water and Holy Spirit. Here is the eternal love with which the Father loves us: with his Eternal Son made flesh and with the Holy Spirit that always comes to us from the heart of Christ Jesus. Without Christ Jesus and without the Holy Spirit, the Father can never love man. It would be deprived of his eternal love that is love of redemption, salvation, justification, creation of the new man or of the new creature. Christ Jesus is entirely poured out into our hearts through the means of the Holy Spirit. Here is why we must ask the Father to give us the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit comes in us and with Him comes the eternal love of the Father that is Jesus the Lord and with Jesus the Lord also the Father comes and dwells in us. The more we ask the Father for the Holy Spirit, the more the Spirit comes and the more He fills us with Christ and with the Father.**

**Let us read the text of Lk 11,1-13**

**He was praying in a certain place, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples." He said to them, "When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread and forgive us our sins for we ourselves forgive everyone in debt to us, and do not subject us to the final test." And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend to whom he goes at midnight and says, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, for a friend of mine has arrived at my house from a journey and I have nothing to offer him,' and he says in reply from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked and my children and I are already in bed. I cannot get up to give you anything.' I tell you, if he does not get up to give him the loaves because of their friendship, he will get up to give him whatever he needs because of his persistence. "And I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. What father among you would hand his son a snake when he asks for a fish? Or hand him a scorpion when he asks for an egg? If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the Father in heaven give the holy Spirit to those who ask him?"**

**What does the Father ask to every man? He asks him to let himself be created as new creature by his eternal love that are the Son and the Holy Spirit. Once one has become new creatures, the Father asks each of his son to consecrate his life entirely consuming it for Him, for the sanctification of his Most Holy name so that his kingdom of light and of peace comes to out earth. Here is the double mission of each son of God, in Christ Jesus, through the work of his Holy Spirit. How does one sanctify the name of God? My God is Holy because I am holy, because I am wrapped by his holiness every day. Letting himself be wrapped by God’s holiness every day and showing it to the entire world in all its splendour. What is God’s holiness? It is the eternal triumph of his love toward all those who let themselves be loved by Him. What is the holiness in God’s children? It is the triumph of the eternal love with which they are loved by the Father. The eternal love is most pure truth, justice, peace, light, forgiveness, mercy, reconciliation, growth in wisdom and grace of the new creature. How does the kingdom of God come to our earth? Striving, every son of God in Christ Jesus, through the work of the Holy Spirit, to bring every man in Christ, through the witness of his life, the gift of the Word, the invitation to conversion and to the faith in the Gospel. A Christian who does not form the body of Christ, adding new members to it, attests not to be immersed in the eternal love of the Father. Whoever is immersed in this eternal love wants what the Father wans and loves what the Father loves? What does the Father love? That every man lets himself be made true body of Christ through the work of the Holy Spirit. What should every child of God in Christ want? That every man gets to let himself be turned into body of Christ as well. He will want it, if he proclaims the Gospel, testifies it, invite to let oneself be made true body of Christ. The Christian is loves by the Father with eternal love. Immersed in this love, he must also love every man with eternal love. Whoever loves with the body of Christ will always lead to Christ, will always proclaim his Word. May the Mother of God help us in this mission. Either we love every man with eternal love or we do not love at all.**