**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 13 – XXXII WEEK O.T.[B]**

**“Will not God then secure the rights of his chosen ones who call out to him day and night? Will he be slow to answer them? I tell you, he will see to it that justice is done for them speedily. But when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"**

**Every grace descends from heaven, from the heart of the Father, through Christ Jesus, in the Holy Spirit, for our prayer. But how should our prayer be done? Many are the modalities to observe. The first is forgiveness. One must pray with the free heart. The second is the state of grace. One does not pray with sin. We must pray with the sanctifying grace in the soul. “Then he told them a parable about the necessity for them to pray always without becoming weary.” Now Jesus adds a further rule: praying without never being tired. One must stop praying only when the grace has been obtained. However, one prays being aware that nothing is impossible to God. Our God is the Mighty One.**

**The example Jesus offers requires all our attention, because of the subjects entering into relation. First subject: "There was a judge in a certain town who neither feared God nor respected any human being.” He alone exists. First of all, this man does not fear God. It means that he can alter the justice to his likeness, to his taste. Without the fear of the Lord, one can turn the justice into injustice and every injustice to become justice. Moreover, he has no regard for anyone. This means that he does not let himself be influenced by anyone. Before him, there are no men and no God. Everything is by his will. He does what he wants. Power with no condition. Absolute power. Unjust power.**

**Second subject: a widow. Who is a widow? A woman with no support. She has no husband; consequently, she is exposed to the pleasure of everybody. Everyone may exploit her at his own likeness. There is no one to defend her. “And a widow in that town used to come to him and say, 'Render a just decision for me against my adversary.' Let us notice well. The widow did not go to demand for justice against her adversary. She went. Her action is continuous. Every day she woke up and, as first thing, she went before the judge to ask him to render justice against her adversary. Not once. But every day. Today, tomorrow, the day after tomorrow, ever.**

**Day after day, the judge became increasingly deafer. But the widow has never stopped. “For a long time the judge was unwilling, but eventually he thought, 'While it is true that I neither fear God nor respect any human being”… Can I live like this? Can I live with this widow that is always in front of my door, always making the same request? What does the woman demand: that he renders justice against her adversary. She asks the judge to be a judge. And here is the decision of the judge: “Because this widow keeps bothering me I shall deliver a just decision for her lest she finally come and strike me.'" Why does the judge finally decide to be a judge for the widow? Because the widow always came before his presence, every day, to ask the judge to be a judge. If you are a judge, you must be a judge. If you are a presbyter, you must be a presbyter. If you are the Father, you must be a Father. One thing we must not do in the prayer is asking the Father not according to his truth. When does one ask He does not according to his truth? When we ask, but we do not trust his Eternal Wisdom. The Lord cannot grant us a grace that He, in his Eternal Wisdom, knows will cause many damages not only physical, but also spiritual to our life. Even us, in the requests and also in the actions, we must always act as true men. But who is the true man? The one who lets himself be ruled by the Holy Spirit and by the fullness of his gifts: wisdom, knowledge, intellect, fortitude, advice, piety, fear of the Lord. The judge is not a true man. He does not fear the Lord.**

**Let us read from the text of Lk 18,1-8**

**Then he told them a parable about the necessity for them to pray always without becoming weary. He said, "There was a judge in a certain town who neither feared God nor respected any human being. And a widow in that town used to come to him and say, 'Render a just decision for me against my adversary.' For a long time the judge was unwilling, but eventually he thought, 'While it is true that I neither fear God nor respect any human being, because this widow keeps bothering me I shall deliver a just decision for her lest she finally come and strike me.'" The Lord said, "Pay attention to what the dishonest judge says.** **Will not God then secure the rights of his chosen ones who call out to him day and night? Will he be slow to answer them? I tell you, he will see to it that justice is done for them speedily. But when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"**

**The judge will render justice to the widow so that she no longer goes to annoy him. Her presence is more annoying than that of a fly in a moment of quietness and of serenity. If the widow had not perseverated in her request, the judge would never have rendered justice to her. The perseverance attests that all her life depended on the justice rendered to her. That justice was necessary, indispensable. When we pray, how much is the grace we ask necessary or indispensable? How much do we need it and how much, instead, is it useful for the exclusive good of the body of Christ? How much does it nourish our selfishness and how much the charity instead?**

**Who is God? He is the Father who remains Father in eternity. He never changes his essence or nature. Never his heart and his will. He lives to do the good. In good, his bestowing is always with no measure. He always gives all himself. “Will not God then secure the rights of his chosen ones who call out to him day and night? Will he be slow to answer them?” How one can notice the concept or the central truth of this parable is justice. God renders a just decision for his chosen few. It is not whatever grace, but a matured grace. A grace that is a right for us. When can we speak of a matured grace or of a grace that is a right? When we ask on the foundation of our obedience. Abraham trusted the Lord and he was granted as justice. Now Abraham can ask the Lord what the Lord promised him as true justice. Every Word heard and obeyed bears a special justice for us. When we have ripened a fruit of justice before God, we must ask God, just judge, to render justice for us. We obeyed, believed, heard Him. It is just that He listens to us.**

**Here is the conclusion of Jesus:** “**I tell you, he will see to it that justice is done for them speedily.” One must never forget that the key of the parable is the truth on the justice. Justice is what we matured for the faith and the obedience to the Word. If there is no borne fruit, it is sign that we are out of the Word of the Lord or of Christ Jesus. But in this case another Word of the Lord is valid. When one converts and repents, the Lord always allows his forgiveness. One enters the Word of the Lord, one obeys it, one bears a fruit of blessing and of eternal life and we may ask the Lord that He makes us taste it. Thus we enter the rule of justice. The listening is for justice. Jesus concludes the parable by saying: “But when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?" Is there an answer to this question? From the Gospel there is and it is the one contained in the Gospel according to Luke and concerns Simon.**

**The gates of falsity will never prevail over the Church founded on Peter. Consequently, the faith on the earth will always remain within the Church, one, saint, Catholic, apostolic. However, the Church may be very few people. A third response comes from the eschatological speech of Jesus. The love of many will grow cold. Many are those who will fall from faith. Instead of being illuminated by a million of lights, it might be illuminated with few lights. But a truth must prevail over the others. Faith is entrusted to each single heart. If faith is not sowed through me in other hearts, both my faith is died and it is disappeared from earth because of me. For me it is dead. Now it is fair that everyone asks himself: if Jesus came on our earth today, would He find the faith for my diffusion, preaching, announcement, testimony of the Word? This is the only possible and true answer. Mother of God, help us.**