**THURSDAY NOVEMBER 03 – XXXI WEEK O.T. [C]**

**I tell you, in just the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance.**

**The Pharisees and the scribes do not know the heart of God. Yet, the Lord had revealed it through the means of his Holy Prophets. It is enough to read some text of the prophet Hosea, the first who reveals this most holy love and one will know how divine, eternal, great, immense is the love of our God for his people and for the entire humanity: “When Israel was a child I loved him, out of Egypt I called my son. The more I called them, the farther they went from me, Sacrificing to the Baals and burning incense to idols. Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk, who took them in my arms; I drew them with human cords, with bands of love; I fostered them like one who raises an infant to his cheeks; Yet, though I stooped to feed my child, they did not know that I was their healer. He shall return to the land of Egypt, and Assyria shall be his king; The sword shall begin with his cities and end by consuming his solitudes. Because they refused to repent, their own counsels shall devour them. His people are in suspense about returning to him; and God, though in unison they cry out to him, shall not raise them up. How could I give you up, O Ephraim, or deliver you up, O Israel? How could I treat you as Admah, or make you like Zeboiim? My heart is overwhelmed, my pity is stirred. I will not give vent to my blazing anger, I will not destroy Ephraim again; For I am God and not man, the Holy One present among you; I will not let the flames consume you. They shall follow the LORD, who roars like a lion; When he roars, his sons shall come frightened from the west, Out of Egypt they shall come trembling, like sparrows, from the land of Assyria, like doves; And I will resettle them in their homes, says the LORD. (Hos 11,1-15).**

**The love of Christ Jesus for every man is perennially drawn from the heart of the Father Whoever wants to know the depth of the heart of Christ must know the depth of the heart of the Father. If one does not know the depth of the heart of the Father revealed to us in the Prophetic Scriptures, one might never know the depth of the heart of Christ the Lord. Here is again how the Book of Wisdom reveals the great love of the Father toward every man: “For with you great strength abides always; who can resist the might of your arm? Indeed, before you the whole universe is as a grain from a balance, or a drop of morning dew come down upon the earth. But you have mercy on all, because you can do all things; and you overlook the sins of men that they may repent. For you love all things that are and loathe nothing that you have made; for what you hated, you would not have fashioned. And how could a thing remain, unless you willed it; or be preserved, had it not been called forth by you? But you spare all things, because they are yours, O LORD and lover of souls,** **for your imperishable spirit is in all things! Therefore you rebuke offenders little by little, warn them, and remind them of the sins they are committing, that they may abandon their wickedness and believe in you, O LORD! (Wis 11,21-12,2). Before the greatness of this love, no one must be amazed of the love of Christ Jesus for the sinners. He is the heart of the Father on our earth. He is the heart through which the Father wants to love every man with a love of redemption, salvation, justification, true new creation. The Father wants children who love with the same heart of Christ Jesus, if they want to love every man with his heart.**

**Let us read the text of Lk 15,1-10**

**The tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to him, but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." So to them he addressed this parable. "What man among you having a hundred sheep and losing one of them would not leave the ninety-nine in the desert and go after the lost one until he finds it? And when he does find it, he sets it on his shoulders with great joy and, upon his arrival home, he calls together his friends and neighbors and says to them, 'Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you, in just the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance. "Or what woman having ten coins and losing one would not light a lamp and sweep the house, searching carefully until she finds it? And when she does find it, she calls together her friends and neighbors and says to them, 'Rejoice with me because I have found the coin that I lost.' In just the same way, I tell you, there will be rejoicing among the angels of God over one sinner who repents."**

**As the sheep is of the shepherd, so every man is of God. He is his creature. But also every man is of Christ Jesus. He is by creation and also by redemption. Without man, Christ Jesus lacks the purity and the fullness of the truth of his body. Without man, the body of Christ is as unfulfilled. Today this is our great sin. We leave the body of Christ unfulfilled, having us declared that the baptism is not necessary to have the salvation and no longer working for the diffusion of the Gospel in the world. Having deprived Christ of his truth, we too have deprived ourselves of our truth. We consume, but for the falsity and the lie, becoming ourselves lie and falsity. Christ and the Father are one only heart. Christ and the Christian are called to be one only heart. They can be one only heart, if they are one only body. May the Mother of God come to our rescue.**