**13th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

It will be hard for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven,” said Christ to His disciples.

How is this? Why? If you take today’s Gospel reading, then you will see. The parable for today tells us how the Lord planted a vineyard and sent his vinedressers to work in this vineyard (Mt. 21:33-42). And he gave them everything needed for their lives. But the workers enjoyed living and laboring in this vineyard so much that they began to feel that the place belonged to them. More and more they began to consider as their own all the prosperity which they were able to get from the grapes which grew so abundantly in the vineyard that did not belong to them; and they gradually began to forget the owner of the vineyard. The Lord gave them everything necessary for their maintenance, for their life, but they began to take it for granted. They had a different understanding: they had the opportunity to use the vineyard and all the beauty of these earthly goods which God gives to man. This captivated them so much, that they completely forgot, or better to say, they did not give a thought to the fact that all this was temporary; and that years would pass, and the hour would come when they would have to leave; and everything in the vineyard would remain here, but they would depart. You see, something different was required of them: while cultivating the vineyard, they should have cultivated also that which was given to every person.

And what was actually given to every person? A human being has a body which requires food, drink, motion, rest — the things that we call the life of the body. But people also have a spirit which always strives for the ideal. And no matter how good our earthly life might be — and it can be so good that it couldn’t be better, in a human heart will always stir that which cannot be satisfied by things surrounding us. And sadness will appear, and the conscience will say that the person did not do the right thing, because the image of God is in every human being, in his spirit; and the spirit also requires life.

Bodily, the vineyard workers were all right, but their spiritual life was twisted and lived according to the flesh. And through this the conscience was suppressed. The conscience did exist but it was covered up. And here is proven what was said to the young man: it is hard for someone who trusts in riches to enter the kingdom of Heaven. Eyes are closed, conscience is darkened. Outwardly, the person appears to be in a good state, but inwardly their conscience is tormenting them. No hopes, no comfort. And so the human being tries everything. He says to himself: I will go to a resort, will go traveling, will create for myself all comforts. I will arrange my family life, will have children. I will enjoy myself. But here, at best, old age will come; but at worst — sickness. When these critical days come, nothing can appease the person who has not paid attention to the spiritual life. No matter how much earthly beauty or how many earthly goods we have — conscience will torment us. This is what today’s parable expresses.

So today’s Gospel says to us: Brothers, take care that this doesn’t happen to you, that the earthly beauty in which we live does not change into this vineyard of the parable! What do we need this vineyard for, these villas, automobiles, if our heart is being torn apart? Let us start to live according to the Gospel, and then our heart will be filled with peace, love, the breath of paradise. And with this fullness of heart, we will pass over into Eternal Life. And when Christ appeared — Who had all the powers: He calmed the sea, He filled five thousand people with five loaves of bread, and healed sicknesses. There would be no need for a commissary, food stocks, first aid stations, or hospitals. Christ could do everything.

What will happen will be exactly what we need: there will be peace of heart with which it is easy to go through this life and not fear to enter Eternal Life. Amen.