Fifth Sunday of Lent (C)

Gospel text (*Jn* 8:1-11): Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. But early in the morning he arrived again in the temple area (...). Then the scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery and made her stand in the middle. They said to him, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?” (...). Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground with his finger. But when they continued asking him, he straightened up and said to them, “Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” (...).

The medicine of mercy

EDITORIAL TEAM evangeli.net (based on texts by Pope Francis)
(Città del Vaticano, Vatican)

Today we recall the poignant words of Saint John XXIII when, opening the Council, he indicated the path to follow: “Now the Bride of Christ wishes to use the medicine of mercy rather than taking up arms of severity. The Catholic Church wants to show herself a loving mother to all; patient, kind, moved by compassion and goodness toward her separated children”.

Blessed Paul VI spoke in a similar vein: “We prefer to point out how charity has been the principal religious feature of this Council. A wave of affection and admiration flowed from the Council over the modern world of humanity. Errors were condemned, indeed, because charity demanded this no less than did truth, but for individuals themselves there was only admonition, respect and love.

—All this rich teaching is channeled in one direction, the service of mankind, of every condition, in every weakness and need.