August 25th: Memorial of Saint Louis, King of France

Gospel text (*Mt* 22:34-40): (...) «Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the Law?». Jesus answered, «'You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind'. This is the first and the most important of the commandments. But after this there is another one very similar to it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself'. The whole Law and the Prophets are founded on these two commandments».

St. Louis, King of France (1214-1270)

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Today our hearts are removed when we re-read the testament written by the King of France Saint Louis to his son heir to the throne: «My dearest son, my first instruction is that you should love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your strength». Louis IX King of France is remembered as a monarch who strove for justice and peace among Christians, and also for the love of the poor. The mortal remains of this holy king were soon revered by his own subjects, since his people felt a great love for him.

Let's take another look at the mentioned testament: « Be just to your subjects, swaying neither to right nor left, but holding the line of justice. Always side with the poor rather than with the rich, until you are certain of the truth».

—St. Louis was masterfully educated in the faith by his mother, Blanche of Castile, and wonderfully accompanied by his wife, Margaret of Provence, with whom he had 11 children.