**WEDNESDAY JUNE 23 – XII WEEK O.T. [B]**

**"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but underneath are ravenous wolves. By their fruits you will know them.”**

**False prophets are those who attribute each of their words to a source or heavenly origin. Words are drawn from their heart, but uttered attributing a divine authority to them. Until sun rises in the sky, always will false prophets exist. They are servants of Satan with the mandate to sow every falsity and lie among man. Thus the Apostle Peter warns the faithful in Christ: “There were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will introduce destructive heresies and even deny the Master who ransomed them, bringing swift destruction on themselves. Many will follow their licentious ways, and because of them the way of truth will be reviled. In their greed they will exploit you with fabrications, but from of old their condemnation has not been idle and their destruction does not sleep.” (2Pt, 2, 1-3) The Christian lives among the false prophets.**

**The Apostle John, too, warns the disciples of Jesus so that they do not fall into error: “Beloved, do not trust every spirit but test the spirits to see whether they belong to God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can know the Spirit of God: every spirit that acknowledges Jesus Christ come in the flesh be longs to God, and every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus does not belong to God. This is the spirit of the antichrist that, as you heard, is to come, but in fact is already in the world. You belong to God, children, and you have conquered them, for the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. They belong to the world; accordingly, their teaching belongs to the world, and the world listens to them. We belong to God, and anyone who knows God listens to us, while anyone who does not belong to God refuses to hear us. This is how we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of deceit.” (1Jn 4, 1-6) False prophets are not outside, but within the Christian community itself. They are our brothers and friends. They are those ones who share the same path of faith with us. In them, however, there is not the truth of Christ.**

**Jesus always has a word of most pure light about false prophets: “Jesus said to them in reply, "See that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Messiah,' and they will deceive many. You will hear of wars and reports of wars; see that you are not alarmed, for these things must happen, but it will not yet be the end. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be famines and earthquakes from place to place. All these are the beginning of the labor pains. Then they will hand you over to persecution, and they will kill you. You will be hated by all nations because of my name. And then many will be led into sin; they will betray and hate one another. Many false prophets will arise and deceive many; and because of the increase of evildoing, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who perseveres to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached throughout the world as a witness to all nations, and then the end will come.” (Mt 24,4-14). It is a responsibility of every disciple of Jesus to guard against the false christ and false prophets. False Christ and false prophets will always exist. It is obligation of the disciple of Jesus not to fall in the trap of their lies and falsities.**

**False prophets have always been an incurable plague among the people of the Lord. Thus the prophet Ezekiel: “Thus the word of the LORD came to me: Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel, prophesy! Say to those who prophesy their own thought: Hear the word of the LORD: Thus says the Lord GOD: Woe to those prophets who are fools, who follow their own spirit and have seen no vision. Like foxes among ruins are your prophets, O Israel! You did not step into the breach, nor did you build a wall about the house of Israel that would stand firm against attack on the day of the LORD. Their visions are false and their divination lying. They say, "Thus says the LORD!" though the LORD did not send them; then they wait for him to fulfill their word! Was not the vision you saw false, and your divination lying? Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: Because you have spoken falsehood and have seen lying visions, therefore see! I am coming at you, says the Lord GOD. But I will stretch out my hand against the prophets who have false visions and who foretell lies. They shall not belong to the community of my people, nor be recorded in the register of the house of Israel, nor enter the land of Israel; thus you shall know that I am the LORD. For the very reason that they led my people astray, saying, "Peace!" when there was no peace. Because you have disheartened the upright man with lies when I did not wish him grieved, and have encouraged the wicked man not to turn from his evil conduct and save his life; therefore you shall no longer see false visions and practice divination, but I will rescue my people from your power. Thus you shall know that I am the LORD.” (Cf Ez 13, 1-23) Even though the Lord intervenes to free from false prophets, he frees from those of yesterday. But he cannot free from those of today that are more aggressive and subtle than those of yesterday. In fact, when do we fight against the false prophets? After they have brought ruin, devastation and massacre among the people of the Lord. Today someone is fighting against the false prophets of yesterday. But what does he do in the meanwhile? He acclaims the false prophets of today and becomes a defender.**

**We must have the same wisdom and knowledge of the Apostle Paul: “If only you would put up with a little foolishness from me! Please put up with me. For I am jealous of you with the jealousy of God, since I betrothed you to one husband to present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts may be corrupted from a sincere (and pure) commitment to Christ. For if someone comes and preaches another Jesus than the one we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it well enough. For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, who masquerade as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan masquerades as an angel of light. So it is not strange that his ministers also masquerade as ministers of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.” (Cf 2Cor 11, 1-15) False prophecy must be enlightened as soon as it springs up from the heart of man. If we let it ramify, it can wrap the entire Church and it will be then impossible to eradicate it from heart. An oak tree may be eradicated when it has a few days of life. If we let it plunge the roots in the field, it will no longer be possible. Even if one cuts it, the seeds produced by it are sprouting in many hearts. Not after a century, but right now, should we guard from false prophets. After a century, it is vain. There are new false prophets who are already producing their seeds of devastation and death of true faith.**

**LET US READ THE TEXT OF Mt 7,15-20**

**"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but underneath are ravenous wolves. By their fruits you will know them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Just so, every good tree bears good fruit, and a rotten tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a rotten tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. So by their fruits you will know them.**

**Since false prophets are also teachers and doctors within the Church of God, they will always teach by their false science and false doctrine. If one entrusts himself to them for a sane discernment, they will always operate by their false science, false doctrine, false knowledge of the Word, false consciousness and false fear of the Lord. The disciple of Jesus must be extremely careful in order not to be dragged in any discernment of falsity and lie. He might do this if he knows the true Word of Christ both according to the letter and according to the truth the Holy Spirit leads to. Relying on what has been written is a necessary way not to be trapped by false prophets. Jesus rejected Satan with one only word: “Thus it is written” Where? In Law, in prophets, in psalms. Thus it is written!**

**Queen of prophets, teach us to know the false prophets of today. They are the ruin of the people of God. The Church needs your constant help.**