**WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 29 – XXVI WEEK O.T. [B]**

**SAINTS MICHAEL, GABRIEL, RAPHAEL**

**"Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this." And he said to him, "Amen, amen, I say to you, you will see the sky opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."**

**Jesus sees Nathanael coming toward him and says of him to those who stood beside: "Here is a true Israelite. There is no duplicity in him." But he says it in a loud voice. Nathanael, too, hears these words. If Nathanael is “a true Israelite in whom there is no duplicity”, why did he not believe in the testimony Philip gave him about Jesus? A sincere, true man always knows to relate to the events in a sincere and true way. He did not accept the testimony of Philip since he is really convinced in his heart that no Messiah of the Lord would be arisen from Nazareth. The absence of falsity in a heart never means renouncement to the sound and holy discernment. Rather, operating every good discernment must be proper of the sincerity and of the truth of a heart before receiving the testimony of another one as his truth.**

**Nathanael hears what Jesus says of him and asks him: “"How do you know me?" Clearly, Nathanael does not still know who Jesus is. He does not know that Jesus knows according to the science proper to God. He knows according to the truth of the Holy Spirit. He knows a heart since he sees that heart. He knows since there is no difference for Him between the inner and the outer of a man. Jesus does not reveal him his mystery, though.**

**We know that Jesus is supremely wise, careful, prudent, sapient, supremely intelligent. He always knows what is good and what is less good, what is opportune and what is less opportune to bring a man into the truth of his person and of his mission. Here is the answer of Jesus: I know you as I saw you. I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you. We do not exactly know what he was doing or with whom Nathanael was under the tree of fig. We do not even precisely know the day in which Jesus saw Nathanael under the tree of fig. For sure, this circumstance was something particular for Nathanael, we can determine it by the answer he gives to Jesus.**

**For Nathanael Jesus is the Master, now. The Master is the Son of God. The Son of God is the King of Israel. He is Master, Son of God, Messiah of the Lord. From the Prologue, we know what Son of God means: Only Begotten Son of the Father by eternal generation. Jesus is the Only Begotten Son of God generated by Him before all centuries. We know that King of Israel means that Jesus is the Messiah everyone was waiting. Jesus is the Master as He teaches the Law and introduces in the knowledge of the will of God. By enlightening and revelation of the Holy Spirit – this may also happen – Nathanael could have the knowledge of the truth of Christ in one moment, even if to the knowledge one must later add the full understanding. The Gospel attests both things as possible way.**

**Let us read the text of Jn 1,47-51**

**Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, "Here is a true Israelite. There is no duplicity in him." Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, I saw you under the fig tree." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel." Jesus answered and said to him, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this." And he said to him, "Amen, amen, I say to you, you will see the sky opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."**

**The profession of the truth does not always match with the perfect understanding of it. The understanding is a process that often lasts all life. Now Nathanael knows whom he must follow: the Messiah of God, the Son of God, the Master. Now he knows that from Nazareth something good can come and above all that the Messiah of the Lord can arise. He knows it since Jesus is from Nazareth. Now that he saw Jesus he does not even raise the issue of how the prophecy matches with the history. History never contradicts the prophecy. This is always fulfilled in history. History is the fulfilment of the prophecy. For Nathanael this issue has no longer any interest. The Messiah is before him and this is enough for him. It is the essential truth. It is up to the history to solve the other truths. For us, too, this law is valid: adhering to the essential truth. It is up to the history to solve what is left.**

**Jesus answers to Nathanael: You are trusting me only because I said that I saw you under the tree of fig. After all, I have not said anything yet. You have not seen anything yet. Following me, you will see greater things than these! To convince Nathanael, first so sceptical toward Jesus, the sign must have been really great. However, for us it remains a mystery. We do not know what is hidden in this sign. But infinitively greater of this sign is what Jesus is about to do. What things greater than these will Jesus do? Here is the answer Jesus himself offers to us. In this sentence of Jesus there is an explicit reference to the ladder of Jacob:** ***Jacob departed from Beer-sheba and proceeded toward Haran. When he came upon a certain shrine, as the sun had already set, he stopped there for the night. Taking one of the stones at the shrine, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep at that spot. Then he had a dream: a stairway rested on the ground, with its top reaching to the heavens; and God's messengers were going up and down on it. And there was the LORD standing beside him and saying: "I, the LORD, am the God of your forefather Abraham and the God of Isaac; the land on which you are lying I will give to you and your descendants. These shall be as plentiful as the dust of the earth, and through them you shall spread out east and west, north and south. In you and your descendants all the nations of the earth shall find blessing. Know that I am with you; I will protect you wherever you go, and bring you back to this land. I will never leave you until I have done what I promised you." When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he exclaimed, "Truly, the LORD is in this spot, although I did not know it!" In solemn wonder he cried out: "How awesome is this shrine! This is nothing else but an abode of God, and that is the gateway to heaven!" Early the next morning Jacob took the stone that he had put under his head, set it up as a memorial stone, and poured oil on top of it. He called that site Bethel, whereas the former name of the town had been Luz. Jacob then made this vow: "If God remains with me, to protect me on this journey I am making and to give me enough bread to eat and clothing to wear, and I come back safe to my father's house, the LORD shall be my God. This stone that I have set up as a memorial stone shall be God's abode. Of everything you give me, I will faithfully return a tenth part to you." (Gen 28,1-22).* Jesus is the stairway through whom the Heaven descends on earth and the earth comes up to Heaven. If Heaven descends on earth through Jesus, Jesus is able to fulfil all the deeds fulfilling in heaven. If earth through Jesus comes up to Heaven, the earth by the mean of Jesus will be sanctified of the same holiness that exists and reigns in heaven. Jesus is the unique Mediator between God and humanity. For Jesus and in Jesus God shows the world his truth and his holiness. For Jesus and in Jesus humanity is clothed with the truth and the holiness of God.**

**Here is how this truth is proclaimed by Saint Paul to Timothy: First of all, then, I ask that supplications, prayers, petitions, and thanksgivings be offered for everyone, for kings and for all in authority, that we may lead a quiet and tranquil life in all devotion and dignity. This is good and pleasing to God our savior, who wills everyone to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth. For there is one God. There is also one mediator between God and the human race, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself as ransom for all. This was the testimony at the proper time. For this I was appointed preacher and apostle (I am speaking the truth, I am not lying), teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth. This truth is essence, substance, discriminant of the truth of Jesus Christ. May the Mother of God guide us to receive the truth of Jesus.**