**FRIDAY OCTOBER 08 – XXVII WEEK O.T. [B]**

**If I, then, drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your own people drive them out? Therefore they will be your judges. But if it is by the finger of God that (I) drive out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.**

**Driving demons out was a daily activity for Jesus. The demon he drives out today is mute. He does not speak. He does not cry out. He does not reveal the mystery of Jesus. Left the demon, the mute begins to speak. The crowd sees the miracle and are astonished. It is not in the ability of man to do it, to operate it. The ability is of God and of the men of God. The astonishment always accompanied the miracles of Jesus. The strange thing is what some people say. They say that it is through the mean of Beelzebul, chief of the demons, that Jesus drives out the demons. This statement is a serious mistake of “theology”: devils do not have a chief. They are not hierarchical structured. The demons are filled with arrogance and arrogance does not allow having a chief. Everyone is the chief of himself. Everyone operates for himself moved by his great envy against man. No devil can give a man the faculty of driving out another demon. It is not in their power to do it, never. Every devil is for himself. These people use a theological falsity to accuse Jesus of accomplice with the devil, or better with the chief of devils. Who is accomplice with the devil is devil too. He is a demoniac too. He too belongs to that demoniac world. What is the frist fruit of this infamous accusation? Jesus is not by God as He says to be, but by devil. If He is by the devil, He is a liar, a deceiver, a falsifier of the truth of God, one who deludes lying to drag all those who follow him into the world of evil and of sin. If He is by devil he should not certainly be followed. Whoever follows him will end up like the devil. He will be lost.**

**Jesus replies starting by a matter of fact that is easily understandable even by the simplest listeners. When will a kingdom be laid waste? When it divides against itself. It is then that a house falls against house by destruction from the inside. A kingdom is strong when it is cemented in unity in his inside. A kingdom is strong when King, ministries, soldiers, citizens become one only thing. Instead when each one divides himself form the other and everyone walks on his own, then this kingdom is weak and it has no consistency. This argumentation is ordinary history and it is valid not only for the kingdom but also for a family, a parish, a dioceses, the Church itself, every other community. If Satan is divided against himself, why did the chief of demons allow me to drive out demons; how will his kingdom stand? Jesus begins from the accusation and confutes them, by declaring them vain, void, through a practical arguing, through images. The image is that of the kingdom divided, easily understandable by everyone as it is a daily historical event.**

**Let us read the text of Lk 11,15-26**

**Some of them said, "By the power of Beelzebul, the prince of demons, he drives out demons." Others, to test him, asked him for a sign from heaven. But he knew their thoughts and said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself will be laid waste and house will fall against house. And if Satan is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that it is by Beelzebul that I drive out demons. If I, then, drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your own people drive them out? Therefore they will be your judges. But if it is by the finger of God that (I) drive out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. When a strong man fully armed guards his palace, his possessions are safe. But when one stronger than he attacks and overcomes him, he takes away the armor on which he relied and distributes the spoils. Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. "When an unclean spirit goes out of someone, it roams through arid regions searching for rest but, finding none, it says, 'I shall return to my home from which I came.' But upon returning, it finds it swept clean and put in order. Then it goes and brings back seven other spirits more wicked than itself who move in and dwell there, and the last condition of that person is worse than the first."**

**Jesus, in addition to attesting with a very practical argumentation that the kingdom of satan is well-compact, reaffirms with clear and strong words that He drives out Satan with the finger of God, with the strength coming from above. The freedom of man from Satan is true attestation or testimony that the kingdom of God has come, it is among them. Thus Jesus blows back the accusation against Him in a great announcement of the coming of the Kingdom of God among the people of the Covenant. The Pharisees want to destroy Jesus and they accuse him of being friend of devil, his alliance and his accomplice. Jesus replies by saying that they do not know neither the power not the cunning of Satan. If they knew who Satan really is, they would understand all the foolishness of their accusations. The Pharisess do not know who Satan is, as they do not know who God is. Everything is by the knowledge of God. Whoever knows God in truth knows every other thing in truth. He knows who a man according to truth is and he also knows who Satan is according to truth. Satan is the spirit of evil who believes himself to be strong, he believes himself to be well-armed, he stands guard to his palace, namely his kingdom of darkness. Because of his strength and of his weapons, and as for reason of the good vigilance he places to his palace he thinks that everything is safe, well-kept. Satan, once he takes a prey is sure that this will never escape him. Satan never allows a prey to escape him. He is his, he made him hi and he wants him to remain his forever, in eternity, in the perdition of hell. This is the acting of Satan and it is a perennial acting, with no change.**

**Satan live to bring soul into hell. He lives for the ruin of men. Here is then how Satan behaves. Not only does he leave a body, a man, when he is forced from above. He does not rest neither after having left it. After having left a man, he goes through desert places searching for relief. It is as if he lacks breathe, life. He is with no peace, no life. The soul to possess is his same life. He lives to possess lives. Here is what his decision is: “I will come back to the house I left” This house is clean, sweep, adorn. It is no longer impure, unclean. That house is no longer his house. He can no longer enter. What do we think? That the devil goes away disconsolate, afflicted, since he definitively lost his property, his life, his breathe, his breath of life. Instead he thinks the opposite of us. He thinks to go and take other seven spirits worse than him. With these seven spirits he makes an action of force, he enters the house and raise his flag. First it was one. Now there are other seven worse than him. The current condition of that man becomes worse than before. The teaching of Jesus is of an infinite clarity. Not only the unclean spirit dos not abandon a man since he is wanted by another unclean spirit, that is his prince. When the unclean spirit leaves, as he is forced by the stronger than him, he has no peace until he has not conquered again the man he left. To conquer him he uses other seven spirits worse than him and the last condition of the possessed, or of the re-conquered is really miserable. Truly the Pharisees do not know the acting of the devil.**

**We may say that not even the modern Pharisees know it, all those who do not know neither God nor Christ Jesus and nevertheless every day they speak about God and of Jesus the Lord. Today the devil made himself theology. Making himself theology he manages to make every man believe that he does no longer exist. That he is not there. He does not operate. He does not liv. He does not care of man. He stays asleep in hell. Making himself theology he convinced many people that neither the hell exists and not even the devil. His cunning his deceit, his lie and his falsity. Once he left theology. Then, he went, he took seven spirits worse than him, he came back, he conquered theology and not the condition of theology is worse than before. Mother of God, do not allow theology to be the house of satan today. Amen.**