**FRIDAY OCTOBER 15 – XXVIII WEEK O.T. [B]**

**I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body but after that can do no more. I shall show you whom to fear. Be afraid of the one who after killing has the power to cast into Gehenna; yes, I tell you, be afraid of that one.**

**The crowds are growing increasingly. The people around Jesus are crowding together that they were trampling one another underfoot. This is the situation, which Jesus is daily called to handle. For one moment, Jesus forgets the crowd and He begins to speaks, first to his disciples. As first teaching, He invites them to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees that is hypocrisy. Hypocrisy is first a leaven. It is contagious. It is enough that one only disciple of Jesus becomes hypocrite and the entire community is in danger of becoming infested, contaminated. That is why one should be aware. In the same way, one should beware that the housekeepers are careful so that no crumb of leavened bread falls into conserves that are prepared as supplies for winter. One only crumb of leaven bread would destroy a great amount of work and of supplies. But what is exactly the hypocrisy of which one should beware? Hypocrisy is a fiction, deceit, lie, falsity. Hypocrisy is a mask of spiritual beauty one puts on a soul entirely immersed in sins. Hypocrisy is similar to a dish of slime offered to eat hidden by a layer of grated cheese. Hypocrisy is the embellishment of the outside while the inside is made up of every transgression of the law of the Lord. Hypocrisy is ostentation of a holiness while one is only devil in the inside. Jesus does not want hypocrisy to reign into his disciples. That is why He invites them to stay away from it.**

**The disciples do not need hypocrisy. Why do they not need it? Because nothing might be hidden, nothing might remain secret. Instead, everything will be unveiled and everything will be known by everyone. This truth is true prophecy of Jesus. Everything a disciple of Jesus does – and not only a disciple of Jesus, but every other man – will always be known by the entire world. Whoever does not want one thing to be known, he should not do it, highlight it. Everything one does will also be known and everything one says will also be heard. The daily life attests the daily fulfilment of this prophecy of Jesus. One does not need hypocrisy to hide the truth. Each thing done is also a known thing.**

**Everything will be known. Everything will be highlighted. Everyone will always know everything about everyone. There are no secret places, soundproofed rooms, venues in the shelter of indiscrete ears and eyes. If one speaks in the dark, in the darkness where no one sees, the following day it will be heard in full light. It will be known by everyone as if it were said in the daylight, in an open square. What one whispers to the ear of the confidant, some moments later it is as it is had been cried out from the terraces. Everyone will listen what is a soft whisper, a whisper almost not understood neither by the ear that listened to it. Dressing up, hiding out is of no use. Everything will be known. Everything will be in full light. As for the Lord there are no darkness, so it is also for men. Darkness, dark, hiddenness last as the night lasts. Then, the day comes and everything appears in full light. Whoever walks with this truth into heart will never fall into hypocrisy, he will never become a leaven of hypocrisy.**

**Let us read the text of Lk 12,1-7**

**Meanwhile, so many people were crowding together that they were trampling one another underfoot. He began to speak, first to his disciples, "Beware of the leaven - that is, the hypocrisy - of the Pharisees. "There is nothing concealed that will not be revealed, nor secret that will not be known. Therefore whatever you have said in the darkness will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered behind closed doors will be proclaimed on the housetops. I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body but after that can do no more. I shall show you whom to fear. Be afraid of the one who after killing has the power to cast into Gehenna; yes, I tell you, be afraid of that one. Are not five sparrows sold for two small coins? Yet not one of them has escaped the notice of God. Even the hairs of your head have all been counted. Do not be afraid. You are worth more than many sparrows.**

**Hypocrisy is of no use for the disciples of Jesus. They do not even need hiddenness. If they are Christian, hiding out is useless. Everyone will know it. Everyone will know the one who is Christian from the one who is not Christian. The fear of people is of no use, as well. Whoever is disciple of Jesus cannot fear men. These one may only kill the body. They have no power over the soul. It escapes their control, their power. The disciple of Jesus must save the soul. He might even give the body to the cross and to the martyrdom. The Lord will save the body offered to the martyrdom. It will be He to give it to him on the last day. Man has a very limited power. He only has power over the body. Then he stand still. He stops. He surrenders. He declares his nullity.**

**Instead, one should be afraid of the one who, after killing, has the power to cast into the Gehanna of fire, namely in the eternal perdition. Jesus invites us to fear the Lord. Why must we be afraid of the Lord? Because He alone can cast our soul in the fire of hell, in the eternal damnation. He alone can exclude our soul from Paradise, from the communion with Him and He can exclude for all eternity. The Lord might save the body given to death. He might never save the soul given to the denial of Jesus God after it is dead consuming its betrayal. The disciple of Jesus must choose: losing the body and saving the soul, saving the soul and losing the soul. If he loses the body for Jesus, Jesus will give it back as glorious in the kingdom of his Father. Instead, if to save the body, he loses the soul, soul and body will end up together in the Gehanna of fire, namely in the eternal perdition. Jesus might never save a soul that had been lost to give salvation to our body. Neither are those theories and human reveries affirming that everything will be enveloped by the mercy of God one day valid. The mercy of God is his gift of salvation, today, in this time. After this time is over as we will enter the eternity, there will be only space for justice. But what is the justice of God? The faithfulness to each of his Word. God is faithful to each of his Word. What he says, he fulfils, today, tomorrow, always.**

**Today man completely abolished the faithfulness of God to his Word in the name of the mercy with no limits, by also ignoring that mercy is nothing but the faithfulness of God to his Word. The good promised is called mercy. The evil promised is called justice. God is both faithful to mercy and to justice, since his is one only Word. His are not two words, but only one. The fear of the Lord is everything. Whoever has it becomes impeccable.**

**The sparrow is a very frail creature, easily catchable. It costs little. One sells it at a low price. With just two coins, one even buys five of them. Yet, the Lord takes care about each of them. No one is forgotten by Him. If a sparrow falls, it is because the Lord allows it falls. The reasons why it falls are not known by us. However, we know that every creature of the world is under the rule of his Creator. Every creature, whether it falls or it does not fall, is bearer of a divine mystery. If an animal creature is bearer of a divine mystery, much more will man be bearer and even much more will a disciple of Jesus be. We do not know why things happen. God knows the mystery that is written in each creature and in each event.**

**Every life is in the hands of God. Every life is placed under his Providence. Even the hairs of our head are counted. Each of them is placed in the Providence of the Lord. If a Father allows that a hair falls or a life is tested, He allows it because there is a mystery that must be fulfilled. We do not know the mystery. We ignore why things happen. However, we must always think one thing: God allowed it for my greater good, for my greater salvation. Woman of most pure faith, help us to live this most high mystery.**