**THURSDAY OCTOBER 21 – XXIX WEEK O.T. [B]**

**"I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing! There is a baptism with which I must be baptized, and how great is my anguish until it is accomplished!”**

**This is the fire of the Holy Spirit. Jesus alone might light up this divine fire. However, He can only light it up with his passion, death and resurrection. Jesus would like this fire to be already lighted up. Times are not fulfilled yet and He must limit himself to live this immense, great desire in his heart. Here is what the Acts of the Apostles narrate about this fire of the Holy Spirit:** “**When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.” (Act 2, 1-4)**

**The same truth is proclaimed by John the Baptist in his preaching:** **Now the people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Messiah. John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.** **His winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." (Lc 3,15-17)**

**This fire will be thrown on earth only at the moment of the death on the Cross. It is then that the Spirit is poured out as water, flowing from the right side of the New Temple of God that is Christ the Lord:** “**Now since it was preparation day, in order that the bodies might not remain on the cross on the sabbath, for the sabbath day of that week was a solemn one, the Jews asked Pilate that their legs be broken and they be taken down. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and then of the other one who was crucified with Jesus. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs, but one soldier thrust his lance into his side, and immediately blood and water flowed out. An eyewitness has testified, and his testimony is true; he knows that he is speaking the truth, so that you also may (come to) believe. For this happened so that the scripture passage might be fulfilled: "Not a bone of it will be broken." And again another passage says: "They will look upon him whom they have pierced." (Jn 19,31-36) This desire of throwing fire on earth is the goal itself of the mission of Jesus. Being it the goal itself of his mission, it is also the goal of his life. In Jesus, the goal of the mission and the goal of life are one only thing. His life is his mission. His mission is his life. Our life is worth it if it is filled with strong desires. If desires are weak, our life is also weak, our mission is weak. Instead, if desires are strong, our life is strong and our mission is strong. This means that we must cultivate strong desires into heart, but we must also create these strong desires into hearts. The pastoral care would have to be creation of strong desires in the heart of everyone. Instead, it is often reduced to more or less apathetic or indifferent procedures.**

**Peace must be seen in this case as union and unity among men without truth, without the Word, without the Gospel, without faith, without obedience. A peace that would be the fruit of the freedom of everyone of being what he wants. Jesus has not come to establish neither this union nor this unity. He has come to divide. He has not come to unite men, rather to divide them, to put them one against the other. This is the division. Let us read the following verses, as only at the end it will be possible to precisely say what Jesus wanted to reveal us with wise clarity and intelligent precision.**

**Let us read the text of Lk 12,49-53**

**"I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing! There is a baptism with which I must be baptized, and how great is my anguish until it is accomplished! Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. From now on a household of five will be divided, three against two and two against three; a father will be divided against his son and a son against his father, a mother against her daughter and a daughter against her mother, a mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law."**

**Here is division. This does not happen within a society in which the ones are strangers and out-of-towners for the others. Division happens within the same family unit. In a family made up of five people three against two and two against three will be divided. There is no peace in the same family. There is division in the same family. What are the rules of such division, whether it is possible to speak of rules? There are no rules for division. They do not exist. Everyone will be divided from the other. Everyone will put himself against the other. This will happen regardless of father, mother, son, daughter, father-in-law, daughter-in-law. Everyone, none excluded, might be divided from the other.**

**What is this division exactly? Jesus has not come to cover the truth, the faith, the will of the Lord. He has not come to hide the sin of the world. He has not even come to subject all people and to establish a kingdom in which the people of the Lord would have been the absolute master of the world, by imposing his peace, one the model of the Solomonic peace:** “**Solomon ruled over all the kingdoms from the River to the land of the Philistines, down to the border of Egypt; they paid Solomon tribute and were his vassals as long as he lived. Solomon's supplies for each day were thirty kors of fine flour, sixty kors of meal, ten fatted oxen, twenty pasture-fed oxen, and a hundred sheep, not counting harts, gazelles, roebucks, and fatted fowl. He ruled over all the land west of the Euphrates, from Tiphsah to Gaza, and over all its kings, and he had peace on all his borders round about. Thus Judah and Israel lived in security, every man under his vine or under his fig tree from Dan to Beer-sheba, as long as Solomon lived.” (1Kg, 1-5)**

**This is not the peace Jesus has come to bring on earth. His is another peace. His is the peace of man’s return to his true humanity; it is freedom from idolatry and sin. The division Jesus has come to bring is a division of choice between God and the world, between God and Satan, between God and richness; between God and sin; between the Word of God and the word of the creature. The division is in order to take different paths. The one who takes the path of the Gospel will walk on the path of a perennial obedience to God. Instead, the one who takes the path of falsity, of lie will walk an opposite way. Here is the division. Division will then make itself war, contrast, deaf opposition from those who chose a path of lie against the ones who chose the path of truth.**

**Since the choice is personal, it is no longer tribal, neither familiar, nor of a people, within the same family, within the same people, within the same tribe the one who chose the way of lie will rail against the one who chose the way of truth. The prudence and the wisdom of the one who chose the way of truth is only one: always beware those who chose the path of lie. These want his elimination, not only spiritual but also physical. Jesus has been eliminated by his people. His people handed him over the Romans. Whoever walks the path of evil, whoever does not want to spend his life in the way of truth and of justice according to God does not recognize anyone: neither the father, nor the mother, neither the son, nor the mother-in-law nor the sister-in-law. Lie blinds and falsity darkens the mind as one does not even see the blood tie anymore. Jesus wants to teach us this truth, so that his disciples live in the greatest prudence, foresight, wisdom. Queen of peace, come to our rescue. Help each of your son so that he lives as true disciple of Christ the Lord. Peace only reigns in his body and all those who live as his true body are children of peace. You shall help us and we will show the beauty and the harmony of peace that is in Christ Jesus.**