**FRIDAY OCTOBER 22 – XIX WEEK O.T. [B]**

**You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky; why do you not know how to interpret the present time? "Why do you not judge for yourselves what is right?**

**Jesus shows man that he does not only have the power of discerning and separating a thing from another; he uses this power and he uses it very well, too. In fact, if he sees a cloud rising in the west he immediately says: “It is going to rain.” And rain comes. Man knows, by observing the clouds, what will happen at short time limit. That of discernment is a good quality. Discernment gives man the possibility to reason, deduce, forecast, give an orientation to his life, make him choose a thing instead of another, always for his greatest good. The one who is unable to discern is also unable to reason, to choose, to orientate himself, to move toward what is the best for himself and the others.**

**Man is not solely able to discern what the fruits of one only wind will be, particularly of the wind blowing from the west. He is also capable to discern and to evaluate the effects of all winds. In fact, when the wind is blowing from the south, he says: “It is going to be hot” and so it is. Man has this power, he uses it, he uses it well. This is a fact, a reality. It is history. One sees it. One notices it. One founds the entire existence on this discernment. Now Jesus adds: why do you only use your discernment for the thing that are of your concern, for the weather or for other things and you refrain yourself from using it to evaluate this time, namely the time of the presence of the Son of man among you? The power of discernment given by God is not limited to some things, while it excludes the other ones.**

**It must encompass the entire life of man on earth. Anything happens, it happens, it is proper of man to be able to discern it. If you do not use your discernment to judge my time, then it is sign that you are hypocrite. You mask our evil will as absence of the power of discerning. However, it is only a mask. You have already judged my time and since it is not convenient, as you would have to convert yourselves, then you pretend not to be able to judge, discern, see it in his full truth. Hypocrisy is a true plague, it is an evil leprosy, it is cancer devouring truth and crushing it in injustice. The fruits of this crushing are bitter, sad, of death. The hypocrisy of the scribes and of the Pharisees has led Jesus to the torment of the cross.**

**Every man has this faculty: judging from themselves what is right. If he can judge, he have to as well. He has to for the greatest good of his life. If he fails to judge for himself what is right, he might come upon in very serious damages for himself and the others. Being able to judge for himself what is right is true salvation, true freedom from every evil, true prior redemption of one’s own life. Now Jesus gives an example, aimed at helping us to understand well how much the discernment about what is right for us is important. If we fail this discernment, it is our end. Our entire future life might be compromised by the failed, missed, not operated discernment.**

**Let us read the text of Lk 12,54-59**

**He also said to the crowds, "When you see (a) cloud rising in the west you say immediately that it is going to rain - and so it does; and when you notice that the wind is blowing from the south you say that it is going to be hot - and so it is. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky; why do you not know how to interpret the present time? "Why do you not judge for yourselves what is right? If you are to go with your opponent before a magistrate, make an effort to settle the matter on the way; otherwise your opponent will turn you over to the judge, and the judge hand you over to the constable, and the constable throw you into prison. I say to you, you will not be released until you have paid the last penny."**

**You – Jesus says – decided to go with your opponent before a magistrate. The magistrate judges and settles forever. Prior to going before a magistrate, why do you not judge what is right, what is the best for you and do you make an effort to settle the matter on your way with your opponent? If you do it, your opponent is not the magistrate. You will find a convenient peaceful way for each other. Instead, if you let the magistrate judge the right thing according to the law, it may happen that he hands you over to the constable, and the constable throws you into prison. From a little evil, because of your hypocrisy, you ended up in a greater evil. From the freedom you could always have enjoyed in the judgement of what is right, you ended up in the loss of freedom. Now you find yourself in prison because of your fault, because of your hypocrisy, since you refused to operate that sound discernment that you could have operated well in your will. What is the result of your hypocrisy?**

**The loss of freedom and the condemnation to pay until paying the last penny. The orison and, moreover, the obligation to pay for everything. Instead, if you had used the discernment, you would have paid much less, you would not have ended up in prison. The truth “prophesized” by Jesus is double: man can discern for himself what is right. Man does not discern because of hypocrisy. He does not discern, since the discernment forces to follow what is right. However, what is the fruit of the non-discernment? A double punishment: the loss of freedom and for the one who omits to discern the truth of salvation, the loss of the eternal freedom with damnation, as well.**

**Before the preaching of Jesus, man is capable of a true, holy, right discernment. If he is capable, he must do it. If he does not do it, it is because of high hypocrisy, because of renouncement, because of a serious omission. What is the fruit of this missed discernment: the possibility of his eternal damnation. The one who does not discern does not discern because he does not want. He is not a foolish. He declares to be so. Jesus wants to destroy this hypocrisy in man. We can discern. We must discern. In discernment, there is the best for each of us. In discernment, man fulfils himself in every good. Here is how the Book of Sirach describes the man according to God. It is a revelation that is worth of every attention from us.**

**“The LORD from the earth created man, and in his own image he made him. Limited days of life he gives him and makes him return to earth again. He endows man with a strength of his own, and with power over all things else on earth. He puts the fear of him in all flesh, and gives him rule over beasts and birds. He forms men's tongues and eyes and ears, and imparts to them an understanding heart. With wisdom and knowledge he fills them; good and evil he shows them. He looks with favor upon their hearts, and shows them his glorious works, That they may describe the wonders of his deeds and praise his holy name. He has set before them knowledge, a law of life as their inheritance; An everlasting covenant he has made with them, his commandments he has revealed to them. His majestic glory their eyes beheld, his glorious voice their ears heard. He says to them, "Avoid all evil"; each of them he gives precepts about his fellow men. Their ways are ever known to him, they cannot be hidden from his eyes. Over every nation he places a ruler, but the LORD'S own portion is Israel. All their actions are clear as the sun to him, his eyes are ever upon their ways. Their wickedness cannot be hidden from him; all of their sins are before the LORD. A man's goodness God cherishes like a signet ring, a man's virtue, like the apple of his eye. Later he will rise up and repay them, and requite each one of them as they deserve. But to the penitent he provides a way back, he encourages those who are losing hope! Return to the LORD and give up sin, pray to him and make your offenses few. Turn again to the Most High and away from sin, hate intensely what he loathes.” (Sir. 17, 1-21) May the Mother of God obtain for us the gift of the true and holy discernment that can occur only if we walk in the Holy Spirit and we let ourselves be ruled by Him.**