**WEDNESDAY AUGUST 24 – XXI WEEK O.T. [C]**

**SAN BARTHOLOMEW THE APOSTLE**

**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 entire life of Jesus, in every word and deed, in every question and in every response, with every person and in every circumstance, is a sign of the presence of the Father and of the Holy Spirit in his heart, in his spirit, in his body. One of his word was enough – "Here is a true Israelite. There is no duplicity in him."– and Nathanael, who had doubt of the words of Philip one moment before, opens himself to a great profession of faith: "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel." The Father and the Holy Spirit are in Christ, with Christ, act and work through the means of Him. Even in the Christian the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit dwell. Why, then, does the entire life of the Christian not become a sign of the presence of the God Trinity in his heart, in his mind, in his soul, in his spirit, in his body? If the Christian wants the world to believe in him and be opened to the faith in Christ Jesus through him, as people was opened to the faith in his Father through Christ Jesus, it is necessary that the Christian turns his entire life, each of his word and each of his deed, into a sign. The Christian is the miracle through whom the world comes to the faith in Christ Jesus. What prevents the Christian from becoming this permanent miracle, this perennial sign of the presence of the God Trinity in his life? Why are his words not words of Christ Jesus and not even his deeds are deeds of Christ the Lord?**

**We find the response in Christ Jesus’s life. He grew in wisdom and in grace. With an uninterrupted obedience to each desire of the Father, each of his Word, each of his will. One must grow so much in grace not to know the sin anymore, not even in the littlest forms. We must progress so much in wisdom and in grace until abstaining ourselves even from one only vain word, not holy word, a word not of God, a word not of the Holy Spirit, a word not of Jesus the Lord. The more one grows in wisdom and in grace, and the more we conquer temptations. With the wisdom and the understanding of the Holy Spirit we see the temptation even when it is still far from us. With the fortitude of the Spirit of God, we overcome it, for we immediately have every strength to say a firm no. Jesus did not play with the temptation. He did not allow it to contaminate his thoughts. Even if it was always crouched before Him with forms and ways always new, He saw it immediately and He immediately overcame it. This is the secret that has ensured that his life was entirely a sign and a deed of love, truth, righteousness, mercy, compassion, forgiveness, light. If the Christian lets the grace disappear from his soul or be weakened, even his wisdom will die or will be weakened. With little grace, one has little strength. With little wisdom one lives with lack of light. One does not see. One tramples into temptation. One slips on it. One falls. There is no possibility for one to be able to resist. One who does not even see the ravine might never avoid to precipitate. Whoever sees avoids. But this is fruit of the Holy Spirit in us.**

**Let us read the text of Jn 1,45-51**

**Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one about whom Moses wrote in the law, and also the prophets, Jesus, son of Joseph, from Nazareth." But Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." 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."**

**Since the Angels descend only on Christ and turn back to heaven, only through Christ, God descends in us and we rise up to Him. We depart from Christ, we do not enter his house, that is his body, in which all the fullness of the divinity dwells bodily, heaven remains in heaven and earth on earth. In Christ the true union between God and every man happens. Today the Church must cry this truth to the entire world. This obedience was asked to it. It must give this obedience to his Lord, to his Christ. He alone is the universal Mediator in all the things dealing with God. The Church is obliged to be instrument of Christ in all the things dealing with God, our heavenly Father. The things dealing with men are in the hands of the Father and it is up to Him to be concerned with them for all those who are concerned of the divine, eternal things, and that deal with his glory. A Church which no longer cares about the things dealing with God has betrayed itself, has denied itself in its mystery. This must be said for every disciple of Jesus. In Christ, through Christ, with Christ, the Christian is made, he, the stairway through which today Jesus descends into heart with his Holy Spirit today and they are regenerated, recreated, made temple of the presence of Christ and in Christ, of the Father, on our earth. Wise Virgin, help us walk in the truth of the announciation of Christ Jesus.**