**25 SEPTEMBER – XXVI SUNDAY O.T. [C]**

**Then Abraham said, 'If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone should rise from the dead.'"**

**The way of salvation is from the listening of the Word of the Lord. The Word of the Lord is not that contained in the Prophetic Scriptures forming the Old and the New Testament. It is instead, what the ministries of the Word draw from the Prophetic Scriptures and that, with every wisdom, intelligence, science, fortitude in the Holy Spirit, they make it come to the hearts through the means of their voice. If the minister of the Word alters, modifies, transforms, changes, falsifies the Word of the Prophetic Scriptures, he drowns the world with false Word of God and from the false Word no salvation can never happen. Moreover, the false Word of God ratifies the hearts in sin and in vice. If then the minister of the Word neither proclaims the Word, within the people of the Lord everyone walks with his thoughts and chases the desires of his heart. The responsibility of the minister of the Word is most high. In his faithfulness to the proclamation the gates of the kingdom of God are opened for every man. Instead, through his unfaithfulness the gates of sin, of great immorality, of universal idolatry are opened. Here is why every minister of the Word will always have to ask: am I faithful to my ministry? Am I unfaithful? Am I omitting? Do I understand the serious responsibility hanging over my shoulders? Do I know that through me the gates of life are opened if I am faithful and the gates of death if I am unfaithful? The minister of the Word is not only the voice of the Word, he is life and death of the Word, he is the paradise and the eternal perdition, he is the blessing and the light, but also the curse and malediction and the darkness, he is the abundance but also the spiritual and material misery. The life of the world both in time and in eternity is from his unfaithfulness. From his unfaithfulness is the death for every man, death in time and in eternity. If today there is very little life and much death in the world, the minister of the Word is the responsible of this much death. If he does not awake from his spiritual sleep and he does not begin again to give true voice to the Word of the Lord, in the most pure truth of the Holy Spirit, the damages that the missed proclamation and also the false proclamation cause in the world are extremely huge, universal. Through the minister of the Word, the life. But also through the minister of the Word, the death.**

**Let us read the text of Lk 16,19-31**

**"There was a rich man who dressed in purple garments and fine linen and dined sumptuously each day. And lying at his door was a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who would gladly have eaten his fill of the scraps that fell from the rich man's table. Dogs even used to come and lick his sores. When the poor man died, he was carried away by angels to the bosom of Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried, and from the netherworld, where he was in torment, he raised his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. And he cried out, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me. Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am suffering torment in these flames.' Abraham replied, 'My child, remember that you received what was good during your lifetime while Lazarus likewise received what was bad; but now he is comforted here, whereas you are tormented. Moreover, between us and you a great chasm is established to prevent anyone from crossing who might wish to go from our side to yours or from your side to ours.' He said, 'Then I beg you, father, send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they too come to this place of torment.' But Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets. Let them listen to them.' He said, 'Oh no, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' Then Abraham said, 'If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone should rise from the dead.'"**

**The answer of Abraham to the evil rich who is wrapped by the flames of hell – “They have Moses and the prophets. Let them listen to them” - must be understood holily. The Word has no feet. The feet of the Word are its ministries. The Word has no voice. The voice of the Word are its ministries. The Word has no heart. The heart of the Word are its ministries. The Word has no truth. The truth of the Word are its ministries. The Word has no wisdom. The wisdom of the Word are its ministries. The Word has no life. The life of the Word are its ministries. Even if the ministries of the Word are feet, voice, heart, truth, wisdom of the Word in the most perfect way, this does not mean that the man is saved. It is necessary that the one who listens to the Word receives it in the heart and gives it life. Rather, that he makes it life of his heart, of his soul, of his spirit, of his body. Without the acceptance of the one who listens to the Word, there might never be salvation. The Word must be proclaimed pure and it must be received pure. It is in this double movement of proclamation and of acceptance that the salvation of man is fulfilled. The ministry of the Word lacks. There is no one who proclaims the Gospel. It does not mean that the Lord leaves man without the listening of his will. The Lord in his great mercy, in the divine goodness, wanting the salvation of this rich man, sends him Lazarus in his condition of extreme poorness and suffering. Lazarus is true Word of God for the rich. But the rich neither sees Lazarus. His eyes are intent on looking at what is in his luxurious table so as to swallow it with great greed.** **It is not necessary that the Lord sends one from heaven. For the Lord it is enough to send them a poor. If they see and serve him, there will be salvation for them. If they neither see him, there will be the perdition for them. The poor is true Word of the Lord. It is word sent, visible Word for the salvation of every man. May the** **Mother of God help us enter this great mystery.**