**TUESDAY AUGUST 24 – XXI WEEK O.T. [B]**

**SAINT BATHOLOMEW THE APOSTLE**

**"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."**

**Philip lives the law of the announcement, of the gift of the encountered truth. Here is what he says to Nathanael: "We have found the one about whom Moses wrote in the law, and also the prophets, Jesus, son of Joseph, from Nazareth." Let us weigh the words. The announcement of Philip to Nathanael does not prompt, in a first time, toward the truth of Jesus as true Messiah or true Christ of God. On the contrary, it prompts to believe that Jesus is the prophet equal to Moses, promised by God in the Deuteronomy. In truth, the prophets said many things. The Psalms, too, said many things. In this sentence, it is Moses who catches the attention. Even if it is not to be excluded that Jesus may be the Messiah, from the words of Philip it appears with certainty that He is the prophet who is to come. Nathanael, who is an expert of the Scriptures, appears to embrace the first truth. Jesus is the awaited Prophet. But then he remembers the words of Philip. This prophet is Jesus, son of Joseph, from Nazareth. He does not doubt the words of Philip. But Nazareth creates a doubt in the heart. "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" Surely, Nazareth did not have a good reputation at that time. It was a very small town in the Galilee. Instead, if he had thought that Jesus was the Messiah, he would surely have answered that it could not be, as the Messiah, according to the prophecy of Micah can be born only in Bethlehem. Bethlehem is in Judea, Nazareth is in the Galilee. Before the perplexities not of scriptural origin, but of the provenience of Jesus – Nazareth is a mere nothing to Nathanael – Philip invites him to realize in person: “Come and see”. It is the same answer of Jesus “Come and see”. Let us observe: Philip does not impose the truth of Jesus to Nathanael. But he does not even renounce to it. The meeting with Jesus was not vain. Jesus was written by the Holy Spirit in the spirit, in the soul, in the heart of Philip. When the Holy Spirit writes Jesus and his mystery in the heart, in the spirit, in the soul, it remains indelible in eternity. For this reason, Judah despaired. He lacked in his breath of truth, holiness, light that is Jesus written in him. In the moment in which he betrayed Jesus, handed him over, it is as if he emptied the soul, the heart, the spirit of his breath of live. He lacks in his essence and truth of life. This privation and lack led him to desperation. With great wisdom, Philip invites him to solve his doubt that is not of biblical-theological origin, but only of historical-local derivation. Meeting Jesus, he could have known the truth.**

**As Jesus preceded the two disciples who followed him, as he also preceded Simon, Andrew’s brother, as he preceded Philip, so he also preceded Nathanael. Jesus is the Lord. His love always precedes every request of man. Here is how Jesus precedes Nathanael: "Here is a true Israelite. There is no duplicity in him." Nathanael is not a double, hypocrite, false, conniver, flattered man. He is a simple, pure man, frank in heart and mind, in thoughts and words. This man does not know what falsity, shrewd, cunning, deceiving word is. His word is his heart, his heart is his word. His heart is free.**

**Nathanael hears Jesus speaking and asks him "How do you know me?" I have never seen you. Where do you draw your knowledge about me? It is truth: God alone can know the heart of a man. Man do not have such science. Unless he is true prophet of the living God: the Lord can let his prophets know the heart of the ones who are before them. But it is only for grace of God. If Jesus knows his heart, he is surely a prophet of the Lord. In this, Philip rightly said. Jesus thus replies: "Before Philip called you, I saw you under the fig tree." Seeing is not being informed. Seeing is not knowing a person. The heart cannot be seen. To understand the answer of Jesus we have to rely on the Psalm. The Lord reveals through the Psalmist that our thoughts have not been conceived and He already knows them. Our heart was not formed and He already knows everything of it.**

**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."**

**Nathanael knows he is before a person coming from God. He goes far beyond the testimony of Philip. Jesus is more than the Prophet. He is the Master. The Master is the Son of God. The Son of God is the king of Israel. A truth should be highlighted. Every witness of Jesus overcomes the received testimony. Andrew overcomes the testimony received by John the Baptist. Nathanael overcomes the testimony received by Philip. Everyone adds truth to truth. The Word uttered by Jesus to his disciples is already fulfilled: “When he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth” How? Adding understanding to understanding. The understanding of the mystery is never over. If the understanding of the mystery were over, the mystery would not be mystery. Unfortunately, today one fell in such a great involution that not only one gives no fulfilment of the truth of yesterday: they have been cancelled from hearts. It is as if an army of spiritual locusts had placed upon the field of our truth, of the sound doctrine, of the Scripture, of the Tradition, of the Theology, of the Magisterium and it had devoured everything.**

**Now Jesus is the one who answer Nathanael: "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree?” Why does Nathanael believe in this answer of Jesus? Because it is a vision with no relation, no word. Between him and Jesus there was not even the meeting of eyes. A man who passes, observes, sees, knows the heart is not only a man. He is much more. He is man of God. He is even more. He is prophet of the living God. Jesus is more than a prophet. He is the Son of God, the Christ of God, the king of Israel. One only word said by Jesus was capable to generate such a great faith in the heart. Now we know who the Incarnated Word is. The truths are united. Jesus is the Word who is in the beginning that is God. He is the Word by the means of whom everything that exists was made. He is the life that is the light of men. He is the light of creation and of humanity. He is the Word who made himself flesh. He is the Word who came to live among us. He is the Word full of grace and of truth. He is the Only Begotten Son of the Father. He is the only one who knows the Father and the only one who reveals him. He is the Lamb of God who takes the sin away. He is the Christ of God, his Messiah. He is the king of Israel. He is the prophet who is to come. Does the truth of Christ Jesus end there? Not at all. We are just on the first page of the Gospel according to John. Jesus announces and reveals himself as the only Mediator between God and humanity. The heaven descends on earth for Him. The earth for Him rises to heaven. As Jesus is the only mediator between the Father, in the Holy Spirit, and humanity, the creation, the universe, everything is given to us by his mean. We can go to the Father by his mean, by his mediation. This truth condemns as false and liar everything asserting, teaching, professing that everyone can go to God directly. God comes by Christ. One goes to God by Christ. Without Christ, there is no communion. Whoever denies the universal mediation of Christ in the creation, grace, truth, light, eternal life, justification, salvation, redemption, prayer, intercession, should know that the spiritual damages of his lie are eternal and irreversible. May the Mother of Jesus obtain for us the grace of confessing Christ Jesus in the fullness of his truth.**