**WEDNESDAY AUGUST 25 – XXI WEEK O.T. [B]**

**"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites. You are like whitewashed tombs, which appear beautiful on the outside, but inside are full of dead men's bones and every kind of filth.”**

**In ancient times, the tomb was an impure place. The contact with a tomb made impure. For this reason, they were properly whitewashed. On the outside, the tomb was candid, clean, beautiful. Inside, on the contrary, it was full of dead men’s bones and every kind of filth. It is a hard contrast. Outside everything candid, inside everything filthy. Outside admirable, inside repulsive. Thus are the Pharisees and the scribes. If one looks at them outside, but from afar, they are beautiful to see. Everything is impeccable to the eye. If one approaches, one realizes that they are filthy inside, as in them the Lord does not dwell, but the spirit of sin. Where the spirit of sin rules there is always the spirit of hypocrisy there. Spirit of sin and spirit of hypocrisy are inseparable. A disciple of Jesus must never fall victim to the spirit of sin and of hypocrisy. But if one falls into sin and one lets himself be ruled by it, he will always be ruled by the spirit of hypocrisy, as well. Whoever does not want to be hypocrite, will have to be very careful so that he never escapes from the Word of the Lord.**

**Now Jesus applies the image of the tomb to the scribes and the Pharisees: on the outside, you appear to be righteous before people, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness. Appearance deceives for a finite time. Then everything comes to light. The Gospel attests it. When does the filth come to light? When one meets a history of light and one has to operate a discernment. With Jesus, they have always operated a discernment of darkness, falsity, calumny. Now the one who operates this kind of discernment attests that there is the filth of sin in the heart. Only sin gives judgement of sin. Holiness utters discernments of holiness. The discernment reveals the truth of heart. One only discernment is enough and one knows the heart. One only word is enough and the inner of a man is revealed. Whoever wants to have a word of truth must own a heart of holiness. False heart, false word. Holy heart, true word. It is eternal truth. There is nothing secret that is not revealed. There is nothing in the heart that does not appear to light. Whoever wants the evil not to manifest itself must take it away from heart, he must ban it from his life, eliminate it from his thoughts. No one never forgets it. History always unveils our heart. It always asks for a discernment of truth. If ours is discernment of falsity, we attest before the world that sin rules us and hypocrisy devours us. Sin and hypocrisy make us ministries of darkness, of injustice, of evil, of wickedness. They make us ministries of Satan and not of Christ Jesus. The “garments” are of Christ Jesus, splendid and shining. The inside is of Satan, since full of wickedness, falsity, betrayal of truth, conjuring against the light of Christ the Lord.**

**But there is another “woe”, even more unsettling. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites. You build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the memorials of the righteous. Building the tombs and adorning the memorials is recognizing the truth of their prophecy and justice. But the prophets were persecuted and some even killed. So also many righteous suffered and have been persecuted. The ones who did this were not the pagans, but the children of Israel, namely the fathers of the scribes and the Pharisees. Is it possible to deny the judgement of falsity of the fathers? It is holy thing, if this happens with spirit of true conversion and of will not to follow their footprints, becoming, we, true prophecy and justice according to the law of the Lord. Otherwise, this too is work of great hypocrisy.**

**Let us the text of Mt 23,27-32**

**"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites. You are like whitewashed tombs, which appear beautiful on the outside, but inside are full of dead men's bones and every kind of filth. Even so, on the outside you appear righteous, but inside you are filled with hypocrisy and evildoing. "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites. You build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the memorials of the righteous, and you say, 'If we had lived in the days of our ancestors, we would not have joined them in shedding the prophets' blood.' Thus you bear witness against yourselves that you are the children of those who murdered the prophets; now fill up what your ancestors measured out!**

**Only apparently, they take the distance from their fathers: and you say 'If we had lived in the days of our ancestors, we would not have joined them in shedding the prophets'. Why only apparently and not in facts? Because in facts, being them full of filthy and impurity, they cannot but be persecutors and killer of the prophets. When one lives in the sin, one is always against the truth, since sin is against the truth. It was and will always be so. Sin, filth in the heart, darkness of mind cannot live together with the truth, neither leave it undisturbed. Sin hates light. It does not want it to harm it. It wants to reign by falsity and by darkness and for this, it kills light.**

**Building the tomb of the prophets and of the righteous, they bear witness against themselves. In fact, they attest to be children of those who kill the prophets. One can even be children of the ones who kills the prophets. God revealed that the fault of the father is of the father. The fault of the father never becomes fault of the son. Instead, here, one apparently takes the distance from the fathers, who are the killers of the prophets, while one continue nourishing the cause that produced this abominable fruit. Whoever wants to take the distance from the faults of the father must necessarily cut off all ties to the sin. If one has sin, one infallibly becomes killer of truth. It is proper of the tree of sin to produce this fruit and it will. Whoever wants, loves, desires to separate from the faults of the fathers has one only way to do it: accepting the invitation to conversion and to faith in the Word the Lord lets man hear. One detaches himself by converting and believing in the Gospel. Since the scribes and the Pharisees are fierce opponents of the Word uttered by Jesus and of the truth to which He demanded obedience, not only there is a detachment from the faults of the fathers, one is a continuer of it in an even serious way.**

**The scribes and the Pharisees fill up the measure of their fathers, since, while the fathers only killed the prophets, they will kill not only the Messiah of the Lord, his Anointed, they will kill the Son of God himself come into flesh for the salvation. Let no one be surprised or amazed. Sin knows no limits in its wickedness. Thus was yesterday, it will be today and tomorrow, too. Sin eliminates those who want to fight it. Jesus came to remove sin from the world. This is his mission. The sin of the world wants to remove Him hanging Him on a cross. It kept Him captive only three days. Then Jesus rose up and now everyone can conquer sin in Him, if he wants to. Now, whoever wants to conquer sin, whoever does not want to fill up the measure of his fathers, has one only possibility: converting to the Word of Christ Jesus, believing in his Gospel, letting himself be baptized, become his body that is without sin. Whoever does not want to become or refuse to be one only body with Christ will always be under slavery of the sin and might perseverate in the fulfilment of the works of his fathers. It is eternal truth. Sin thrives on sin.**

**One understands this truth only if the Holy Spirit enlightens the mind with his divine and supernatural wisdom. But, so that He might enlighten it is necessary that the heart is free from every sin. If the heart is taken up by sin, the Holy Spirit comes out of it and foolishness, ignorance, falsity, lie, hypocrisy make heart their permanent dwelling. Thoughts, decisions, discernments, words might never be the fruit of the Spirit of the Lord. It does not dwell into heart. Mind does not understand the Word of the Holy Spirit. One should not be surprised when a heart persists in falsity, in the disdain of the truth, in the vilification of justice, in every other wickedness. Until one takes sin away from heart, one might never enter the Holy Spirit with his divine and eternal wisdom, intelligence, advice. Remaining, sin, in the heart, every word coming out of it is fruit of sin ruling it. May the Mother of Jesus, the Woman with a heart full of Holy Spirit, intercedes for us. May She obtain for us to have a pure, holy heart, full of God, as hers, Amen.**