So they went off and preached repentance

**THURSDAY FEBRUARY 4 (Mk 6, 7-13)**

The conversion is the return to the God’s Word of yesterday, transgressed, disobeyed, neglected, forgotten. All the prophets ask the Lord’s people first of all for this conversion. The people are invited to return to the Sinai’s Law: *“Now come, write it on a tablet they can keep, inscribe it in a record; That it may be in future days an eternal witness: This is a rebellious people, deceitful children, Children who refuse to obey the law of the LORD. They say to the seers, "Have no visions"; to the prophets, "Do not descry for us what is right; speak flatteries to us, conjure up illusions. Out of the way! Out of our path! Let us hear no more of the Holy One of Israel." Therefore, thus says the Holy One of Israel: Because you reject this word, And put your trust in what is crooked and devious, and depend on it, This guilt of yours shall be like a descending rift Bulging out in a high wall whose crash comes suddenly, in an instant. It crashes like a potter's jar smashed beyond rescue, And among its fragments cannot be found a sherd to scoop fire from the hearth or dip water from the cistern. For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel: By waiting and by calm you shall be saved, in quiet and in trust your strength lies. But this you did not wish. "No," you said, "Upon horses we will flee." - Very well, flee! "Upon swift steeds we will ride." - Not so swift as your pursuers. A thousand shall tremble at the threat of one; if five threaten you, you shall flee, Until you are left like a flagstaff on the mountaintop, like a flag on the hill. Yet the LORD is waiting to show you favor, and he rises to pity you; For the LORD is a God of justice: blessed are all who wait for him!” (Is 30,8-18).* But the Lord is not just the one who spoke. He is also the one who speaks today and manifests His will today. Even to the Word of today one must convert. God walks with His people. Through his prophets He spoke, He speaks, He will speak. With every word pronounced, the people are called to conversion which is acceptance in faith of what they have heard. Without acceptance of the Word heard, there can never be faith. Without faith there is no obedience. Without obedience there is no conversion.

*He summoned the Twelve and began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over unclean spirits. He instructed them to take nothing for the journey but a walking stick - no food, no sack, no money in their belts. They were, however, to wear sandals but not a second tunic. He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave from there. Whatever place does not welcome you or listen to you, leave there and shake the dust off your feet in testimony against them." So they went off and preached repentance. They drove out many demons, and they anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.*

Today Jesus sends the Twelve two by two to show through their works that the Kingdom of God is present in the midst of men in the person of Christ Jesus and also in their persons, to whom Jesus has given the same powers as His. To this kingdom that is present one must convert and convert by welcoming it. How is the kingdom welcomed? Accepting the Word that the Twelve announce, preach, teach. The kingdom of God is both Word and work. Never work without the Word. Never the Word without the work. This is because the kingdom of God is visible and invisible. The invisibility of the kingdom is announced by the Word. Visibility is made manifest by the works that are done. If the kingdom lacks visibility, it is certainly not the kingdom of God. History is the essence of the kingdom and not just eternity. This law of the kingdom also applies to us Christians. The Gospel is both the Word and obedience to the Word. It is a manifestation of the creative and renewing, saving, redemptive, sanctifying omnipotence of our God. Now the creation, the renewal, the salvation, the redemption, the sanctification take place in history and reach their fullness in eternity. Today this is the great sin of the Christian: the preaching of a kingdom of God that is fulfilled in eternity, while on earth one lives in the kingdom of sin and death and is a subject of the prince of the world.

Mother of the Redemption, Angels, Saints, make us visibly manifest the Kingdom.