**TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 07 – XXII WEEK O.T. [B]**

**In those days he departed to the mountain to pray, and he spent the night in prayer to God. When day came, he called his disciples to himself, and from them he chose Twelve, whom he also named apostles.**

**What Jesus is going to do marks the future of his mission and of his work and it must be done in the clearest, most certain, surest, manifested, revealed, will of his Father. Nothing that Jesus does comes from Him. Instead, everything comes from the Father. That is why Jesus goes up to the mountain to pray and spends all night in prayer. Jesus prays God. He asks Him to manifest all his will. He asks that He reveal Him what his will is, the things that are pleased to Him. The thing Jesus asks the Father is very important. One deduces it from the duration of his prayer: Jesus spends all night long praying the Father. From what follows we know that it is the continuation on earth of his own life until the consummation of centuries. The Father wants the life of Jesus to continue among men for all the duration of the history. The Father wants and He indicates the modalities. The Father wants and says to Jesus how this must occur. The Father wants and indicates Him the men who will have to do all of this. On this night, it is as if Jesus sees the entire future history of his mission: from this moment until the advent of new heavens and of the new earth. He now knows what He must do, whom to choose, whom to call. The Father showed Him everything. In the Father, He saw and He will choose according to this vision.**

**As soon as the day comes, now that He knows everything, He ceases praying and goes to his disciples. Among all those who followed Him, He chooses twelve. He names the Twelve chosen Apostles, namely envoys, sent. This means that they will have to be bound to Him. He does not send them today forever, Jesus sends them every day. Every day the Apostles will have to let themselves be sent by Him. The Old People of the Lord was founded upon Twelve Patriarchs, the twelve sons of Jacob. The New People of the Lord is founded upon Twelve Apostles of Jesus. Today the New People of the Lord is conceived. The Apostles will be the ones who will have to continue the life and the mission of Jesus until the end of the world. Their mission will be this one. This is their mandate. Who are these Twelve Apostles? We already know four of them: Simon, Andrew, James and John. Simon who was called with his given name: Peter. He will be the stone on which Jesus will edify his Church. We know that Matthew is Levi and we know his call. The Gospel does not say how the others became disciples of Jesus. Judas Iscariot, since from the town and from the region of Kerioth, of the far south of the Palestine, is always related to his betrayal. The texts would point out that, today, at this moment, Judas is a true Apostle of the Lord. Later he became a traitor. This news has a great value of teaching for us: the call of Jesus, of God is always true and true is our heart when Jesus, God call us. Then, however, the heart may become corrupted, deteriorated, defaced. It is up to us to be vigilant so that this does not happen. The beginning of a journey is always good. But the corruption is always lying in wait. Temptation has permanent home before our door. The gift is of God. The perseverance until the end is placed in our hands, too. From this moment on, Jesus will always walk with his Twelve Apostles.**

**Today Jesus constitutes the number of the Twelve. He chooses those who for all the extension of history, until the consummation of centuries, will have to be the testimonies of his life, of his grace, of his truth, in the gift of the Holy Spirit and of the Word. Who is the Apostle of Jesus in truth? He is the One who is called to make Jesus live before every man, of every time, of every race, of every culture, of every social background. No automatism in this. He will make Jesus live, he will introduce Him in his power of grace and of truth, not the one who is conformed to Him by sacramental way, but the one who will conform himself to Him by way of holiness, of charity, of perfect justice, of exemplarity, of total imitation of his Master and Lord. Without holiness, Jesus will be hidden, instead of showed. Without holiness, no one will see Jesus in his Apostle.**

**Let us read the text of Lk 6,12-19**

**In those days he departed to the mountain to pray, and he spent the night in prayer to God. When day came, he called his disciples to himself, and from them he chose Twelve, whom he also named apostles: Simon, whom he named Peter, and his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called a Zealot, and Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor. And he came down with them and stood on a stretch of level ground. A great crowd of his disciples and a large number of the people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and even those who were tormented by unclean spirits were cured. Everyone in the crowd sought to touch him because power came forth from him and healed them all.**

**Jesus is with his Twelve Apostles. He descends from the mountain and stands on a stretch of level ground. Around Jesus, there is a great crowd of his disciples and a large number of the people coming from everywhere: from all Judea and Jerusalem and the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon. The multitude is made up of the children of Abraham and also of those who are not children of Abraham. All people flock, since everyone hopes in Jesus. They see Him as their true Saviour. Jesus has a word instilling hope. He fulfils actions that give life again. The stretch of level ground was useful to the leaders to have the army in battle. It is as if Jesus prepared his army for the fighting against the prince of this world. He prepares it giving them the weapons of the most pure truth. Now it is said why this entire crowd has come to Jesus. They have come to listen to Him and to be healed of their diseases. Everyone was healed and cured by Jesus: even those who were tormented by unclean spirits. Jesus is powerful in words and works. No disease is impossible for Him. No unclean spirit is stronger than Him. He commands and diseases vanish. He orders and the unclean spirits abandon the ones who were tormented by them. Jesus is powerful. He is the powerful one. Jesus is the strong one. In Him, the omnipotence of the Father acts and operates.**

**People did not ask Jesus the miracle expressly. They just seek to touch Him. People touched Him and they were healed. They were healed because power came forth from him and healed them all. The sole physical contact with Jesus, contact operated in the great faith, though, cured, healed, freed. Jesus is not an exhausted, dry source. Jesus is a true river of living water. People flock for that. They know that his water is for everyone. It is enough to have faith. This is the only condition. We should all think to have been constituted as continuators of his life and of his mission. People should see us, too, as rivers of living water. If they do not see us, it is because we are not. If we are not, it means that we failed in something in our mission. We failed since the source, that Jesus is, is always full of water. If the water does not pass from Him to us, it is because we obstructed ourselves. It is because we are “stoppered” missionaries in our little, poor humanity. It is because we lost touch with Him. Jesus has never lost touch with the Father. Jesus has never “stoppered” himself in his mission. He is always by the will of the Father. The river of grace, of truth, of omnipotence of the Father flows in Him and with this river He enlightens, teaches, instructs, cures and heals. Being missionaries with the “stopper” does not generate salvation. When is a missionary stoppered or with the stopper? When one closes himself in the field of his humanity. When he does not open to transcendence. When he does not daily immerse in the obedience to Christ Jesus and in the listening of his Word. When he does not fill every day with grace. When he separates from the Holy Spirit. The Christian is similar in all to a jar. When a jar is placed under the source stoppered, it will be never filled with water. It went to the source empty and it comes back empty. Thus is said of the disciple of Jesus. If he closes himself, he is stoppered in his humanity, he remains empty in grace and in truth. The salvation is not fulfilled by the means of him. It might never be fulfilled. His vital bond with transcendence, with the divine, with the grace, with the truth, with the Holy Spirit, with God is missing. Mother of God, come to our rescue.**