**FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 17 – XXIV WEEK O.T. [B]**

**Afterward he journeyed from one town and village to another, preaching and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God**

**The Gospel always reminds us method and mission of Jesus. He journeys from towns to villages, preaching and announcing the good news of the kingdom of God. Jesus preaches and announces the Gospel of God. He gives hearts the true knowledge of his Father. The true knowledge of man. The true knowledge of the mercy of the Father, inviting every man to the conversion and to the faith in the Word announced, preached, taught by Him. Jesus is the Master, the Prophet, the Envoy of the Lord seeking man where man lives. He is not, however, a master who lets himself be sought by man and that comes where the master lives. The master is the one who needs man and not the man the master. The Master is the one who must go to man to tame him. It is not up to man to go to the Master to be tamed. Jesus knows one only verb: to go. There is also the invitation to come before Him, but because He has already come to them. Jesus does not carry out his mission alone: there are the Twelve with Him. The Twelve are his Apostles. They are with Him since they must learn everything from Him. Jesus is the Master who does not say the doctrine. He lives the doctrine and, by living it, the others sees how it must be lived and they learn to live, as well, in the same way. Jesus does not just say. He says and does. While He says, He does: while He does, He says. His teaching is perfect, since it is made up of word and works. The Word must never be without the works. Never the works without the Word. Word and work must be the one the tree and the other one the fruit. As tree and fruit are one only thing, so also Word and work are one only thing.**

**With Jesus and the Twelve were some women who had received the healing from Jesus. Some have been cured in spirit and some in the body. The first of these women mentioned is Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out. Seven demons means that her evil possession was really powerful. This woman had been chained by Satan and ruled by him. Extremely miserable was the condition of this woman before Jesus freed her. The others are: Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward. She is a wealthy woman. We do not know who Susanna was, as references in the rest of the Gospel are missing. Many others, whose name is silent. All these women, since they were wealthy, put their goods at the service of the mission of Jesus. These women provide for Jesus out of their resources. Jesus carries out the mission the Father entrusted him. The Father assists and serves Jesus by inspiring in these women the love and the living desire to serve Jesus with their resources. It is not Christ who asks. It is the Spirit that inspires. Every time, when one carries out the mission that has been entrusted to us according to truth, the Holy Spirit inspires the people who serve us with their material possessions. They serve us day by day, for what is necessary, right, saint. These women will have to be an example for the Twelve. As Jesus was assisted by the Father through these women, so also the Twelve will be assisted by the Father through other people who will serve them with their goods. This is eternal truth. It is the Father who takes care of those who have at heart his mission of salvation.**

**Let us read the text of Lk 8,1-3**

**Afterward he journeyed from one town and village to another, preaching and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. Accompanying him were the Twelve and some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward Chuza, Susanna, and many others who provided for them out of their resources.**

**Jesus was entrusted by the Father to the charity, the mercy, the goodness of some women. Those followed Jesus and provided for Him with their goods. Thus Jesus gives all his disciples the example of how one should carry out his mission. His disciples will have to think about the gift of grace and of truth. They will have to deal with the sowing of the Word of the Lord in the hearts. The support of what is necessary for their bodies is entrusted by his Father to merciful and piteous people who will always take care of them. The missionary of Jesus is the poorest among the poor and the neediest among the needy. He has nothing in this world. He must possess nothing. He is an eternal wanderer and as wanderer, He only has the feet to walk, the mouth to say the things of God, the hands to bless. Nothing is his. Nothing can He say to be his. The Father will always take care of Him on the condition that He takes care of his kingdom and cultivates it with immense freedom, love, justice, truth, holiness.**

**From the life of Jesus, we must also learn to give back our mission that theological shape necessary for the salvation of man. Once man entered the Word of Jesus, everything else will be fulfilled by the Word of Jesus, not by the missionary, since as Jesus, daily entering the Word of the Father, had a creative Word himself, so the disciple of Jesus, entering the Word, through the Word receives the strength that is inner the Word and so he operates through it and only by the means of it. This is the extraordinary power of the Word of the Lord. Jesus is the poor man, who has no possessions, nor richness, he has not where to put his head, either; his richness is the creative Word the Father entrusted Him and through this Word, He solves every human problem. Even to the disciple did Jesus leave no other heritage than the Word, Word to accept, to live entirely in his heart, Word to turn into creative Word for the salvation of his brothers. The power of Jesus is the Word, the power of God is the Word, the power and the strength of the Christian is the Word. With the Word He creates, heals, rises, changes hearts, transforms minds, multiplies the loaves, gives the peace, enlightens minds, regenerates the souls and sanctifies them. The Word of the disciple of Jesus is the same as that of Jesus, as that of Jesus was the same as that of the Father. If in Jesus the Word was always living and efficacious Word, the same Word will have to be in the Christian, if it is not, it is manifested sign that the Christian does not live the Word, he does not listen to it. The Word listened and turned into life becomes creative Word as that of God and of Jesus, since it is the same only Word. Everything is in the Word and out of the Word there is nothing that can be good for the disciple of Jesus.**

**Jesus is a poor, very poor man, He carries out his mission in total entrustment to the Providence of the Father, who inspires in some women the desire and the will to assist Him with their goods, following Him in his peregrinations. Living as a handed over the hands of the Father, in everything, Jesus teaches his disciples the abandonment, the trust, the certainty that the Father of heaven knows what we need in the moment and with promptness, He gives us that assistance that is for us also a reason to eradicate ourselves even deeper in Him.**

**The entrustment to the Providence is not just for the things of the bodies, it is also for those of the spirit, mainly for these ones; the intervention of the Lord in the visible things must open with more intensity the heart to the trust in Him, in the Lord, even for the invisible things, for everything is necessary so that his mission of salvation can be carried out with intensity and density of commitment and inner freedom. It is certainty: God is the one who announces the kingdom; He is in a full, total way, for every necessities and not only for material necessities. Nevertheless, since the material necessities are visible in their actuation, they become signs so that it grows in us the faith of the Providence of God who provides days and hours according to his plan of salvation for the benefit of the entire world. But one thing must always remain in the heart: trust, that is then mature trust that God is with the one who brings his Gospel and God, when He is present, is there with all the abundance of his grace and mercy, with the abundance of his strength. Even if, then, concretely, He exercises this grace and this strength through particular man and women. But it was they, moved by the Holy Spirit of God for this work of help and of assistance and by no one else. This is the faith that must rule the heart of the missionary of the Gospel. May the Mother of God obtain for us the gift of a living and operative faith.**