**SATURDAY 04 DECEMBER – I WEEK OF ADVENT [C]**

**At the sight of the crowds, his heart was moved with pity for them because they were troubled and abandoned, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest."**

**The activity of Jesus is reaffirmed again, so that we never forget the essence of his missionary work. He goes around to all towns and villages. He did not expect the world to come to Him. He was the one who went to the world. The mission is always carried out in two modalities. One goes to the missionary to receive every spiritual and material benefit. But also the missionary goes to the people to bring to them the message according to the order of God. There are people that can come, they come and one receives them. But there are people that cannot come, one goes and brings the light of the Lord. Jesus lives these two modalities. Everyone comes to Him. But He, too, goes to everyone. No one is excluded from salvation.**

**Here is what the activity of Jesus in his missionary pilgrimage is: He teaches in their synagogues, proclaiming the Gospel of the kingdom and curing every disease and illness. Teaching is on the first place. It is the primary activity of Jesus. Teaching is specified as proclaiming of the Gospel of the kingdom of God. One teaches the will of God, one proclaims the Gospel of the kingdom, one explicitly invites to conversion and to the faith in the Gospel proclaimed. As sign that what announced by Jesus is the Gospel of the kingdom, Jesus heals from every illness and every disease. The Kingdom of God is also liberation from every physical evil. Jesus gives an anticipation as sign. These modalities will have to be lives by every missionary of Christ Jesus. One proclaims the kingdom teaching the Gospel that opens its gates to us. One proclaims showing what the eternal fruits of it will be. These modalities must be one only modality.**

**The one who must see to give the shepherds according to his heart is the heavenly Father. His is the sheepfold and his is the cure. But Jesus wants the ones who rule the sheepfold to pray the Father so that He sends out shepherds in a great number. The harvest is always abundant. The labourers are always few. This truth must be the heart of every shepherd and of every sheep, too. Both shepherds and sheep must know that many shepherds are needed. No one can be enough by himself. Neither a pope, nor a bishop, neither a presbyter can be enough alone. Since the harvest is abundant, the shepherds, too, must be many. The numerous shepherds must then be as one only shepherd: all operating and acting by the heart of God. Since the sheepfold is of the Father and He is the one who must see, one must ask Him to see with endless prayer. What must the Lord see to? Not just to send labourers in his harvest, shepherds of his sheepfold. He must see to send shepherds according to his heart, so that they guide his sheepfold with wisdom and intelligence of Holy Spirit. The shepherds guiding the sheepfold by their heart, by their foolishness and ignorance is of no use. It is of no use that the lord sends many labourers, if then everyone walks according to his pervert heart. The damages are serious and huge. Instead, the Lord will send shepherds according to his heart and his sheepfold will be well guarded.**

**Let us read the text of Mt 9,35-38-10,1.6-8**

**Jesus went around to all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and curing every disease and illness. At the sight of the crowds, his heart was moved with pity for them because they were troubled and abandoned, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest."** **Then he summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits to drive them out and to cure every disease and every illness. Go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, make this proclamation: 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, drive out demons. Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give.**

**When the Lord gives a mission, He also gives the means so that is can be fulfilled. Without the means, no mission might be fulfilled. One cannot be prophets of the living God without the gift of the Word. If the disciple of Jesus must show the presence of the kingdom of God in the world, it is a necessary thing that the means so that this may happen are given to them. Jesus gives the power over the unclean spirits. They can drive out demons.**

**They can also heal every kind of illness and infirmity of the people. Namely, they can free men from the power of Satan. They can even free from the physical consequences the sin produces in the body of man. Endowed with this divine power, the disciples can go to the world and show that the kingdom of God is really among them. One thing must be made clear, though. Every divine power must be exercise in the communion of the Holy Spirit. The Twelve Apostles of the Lord will have to address the lost sheep of the house of Israel. They have primary right over all the other people. Priority is only temporary. First, the Gospel must be proclaimed to the people of God. It must be proclaimed to the children of Israel as it has been promised to them. Not only. But for them, the Gospel will have to be given to every other people. In the offspring of Abraham, for them the blessing of God will have to reach all people.**

**How will the Twelve Disciple have to live the mission? Jesus gives them simple, not complex, rules. They must only be applied. The mission is going from place to place, first, from town to town. First rule: the will have to preach, along the way or on the road. In what will their preaching have to consist? In saying that the kingdom of heaven is near. The kingdom waited by them has come, it is among them. How one can notices, the preaching of the Apostles is the proclaim of a new reality that is in the world. God has decided of setting his kingdom on earth. He has decided and He is working to establish it. This is the good news. This first rule will never have to forgotten. The kingdom must be proclaimed as come, present in the world, since salvation is in the kingdom and it is always from the kingdom. If there is no kingdom, there is no salvation. One gives salvation from the kingdom. Building the kingdom of God, growing as kingdom of God, gathering to the kingdom of God is an obligation for every disciple of Jesus. If the kingdom is not built, no salvation will be given. Salvation is given as kingdom of God from the kingdom of God.**

**Now Jesus adds a second and a third rule. These, too, must be observed. The second rule dictates the modalities to attest, show, make the presence of the kingdom on our earth visible. It is essential rule. Healing the ill, rising the dead, cleansing the lepers, driving out demons is manifesting, in a visible way, before every man, that the kingdom is really present among them. The signs they fulfil attest it.**

**These signs reveal that the sin and its fruits can be won, defeated. However, they are not won or defeated by force of nature or of men, but because the Lord acts among the Apostles. The power of God is in them. This rule must never be forgotten by the Apostles. Human forces are not the ones that manifest the presence of the kingdom in their mission, but it is the power of Christ operating in them. In them, everything must descend from Heaven.**

**A third rule demands that first of all, the Apostle of the Lord shows and reveals that the kingdom is already in Him, in his person. How will this manifestation be possible? Proclaiming and operating without cost. Without cost you have received. Without cost you are to give. It is eternal, immortal rule. It reveals that the kingdom of God is truly in the Apostle and that the Apostle is in the kingdom of God. His heart is free from every spirit of greed and of possession. May the Mother of God and our Mother help us. We want to do only what Jesus has ordered us.**