**MONDAY JANUARY 10 – FIRST WEEK O.T. [C]**

**After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."**

**Jesus begins his mission inviting every man to convert and to believe in the Gospel. This invitation is motivated by the time that is fulfilled and by the kingdom of God that is near. It is not about a solely moral conversion, as the conversion the old prophets proclaimed. On the contrary, it is a true theological conversion, rather a true Christological conversion. One must convert to Christ, to his truth, to his Word. The entire mission of Jesus has this unique and only purpose: leading every man to the conversion to his Person and to his truth, to believe in his Word. Here is how this truth is revealed by the Holy Spirit in the Gospel according to John: “They wanted to take him into the boat, but the boat immediately arrived at the shore to which they were heading. The next day, the crowd that remained across the sea saw that there had been only one boat there, and that Jesus had not gone along with his disciples in the boat, but only his disciples had left. Other boats came from Tiberias near the place where they had eaten the bread when the Lord gave thanks. When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into boats and came to Capernaum looking for Jesus. And when they found him across the sea they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you get here?" Jesus answered them and said, "Amen, amen, I say to you, you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate the loaves and were filled. Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him the Father, God, has set his seal." So they said to him, "What can we do to accomplish the works of God?" Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in the one he sent." (Jn 6, 22-29)**

**And, again, with more explicit and clearer words: “He said to them again, "I am going away and you will look for me, but you will die in your sin. Where I am going you cannot come." So the Jews said, "He is not going to kill himself, is he, because he said, 'Where I am going you cannot come'?" He said to them, "You belong to what is below, I belong to what is above. You belong to this world, but I do not belong to this world. That is why I told you that you will die in your sins. For if you do not believe that I AM, you will die in your sins." So they said to him, "Who are you?" Jesus said to them, "What I told you from the beginning. I have much to say about you in condemnation. But the one who sent me is true, and what I heard from him I tell the world." They did not realize that he was speaking to them of the Father. So Jesus said (to them), "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will realize that I AM, and that I do nothing on my own, but I say only what the Father taught me. The one who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, because I always do what is pleasing to him." (Jn 8, 21-29) Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of (his) disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may (come to) believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name. (Jn 20, 30-31) Today the Church is obliged to proclaim the conversion to Christ, to his eternal truth, to his truth of Incarnation, to his truth of salvation and redemption. If it omits this announcement, that must be explicit as the announcement of Christ Jesus was, not only is it omitting and therefore seriously responsible before God for all those who are lost, moreover it carries out vain works, uselessly consumes its energies, not only the spiritual ones, but also the physical and material ones. If it does not proclaim Christ, it is consumed for the nothing and also for its perdition.**

**Let us read the text of Mk 1,14-20**

**After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." As he passed by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting their nets into the sea; they were fishermen. Jesus said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." Then they abandoned their nets and followed him. He walked along a little farther and saw James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They too were in a boat mending their nets. Then he called them. So they left their father Zebedee in the boat along with the hired men and followed him.**

**The first true example of conversion to Christ Jesus are the first four people called to follow Him. Andrew and Simon, James and John abandon all things: father, boat, nets and seashore, and follow Christ Jesus. They go with Him. Here is what the true conversion is: making the before die. Beginning the after with Christ by following Christ. The conversion that is true discipleship of Christ the Lord does not begin and is completed in one day. Conversion lasts for all life. One must always walk with Christ behind Christ. The day in which one walks with Christ, but not behind Christ or one walks behind Christ but not with Christ, it is then that one comes back into our before that is no longer the before one has abandoned, though, as the man who comes back to the before is no longer the man of before. He is a man who has known Christ, who has seen his light. When one abandons Christ, one comes back not in the shadow of before. One goes in the darkness. One goes into obscurity, as one has abandoned the true light that is Jesus the Lord. Today, not only has one abandoned the theological and Christological conversion, one has even abandoned the moral conversion, that is the passage from evil to good. May our heavenly Mother make us true disciples of his Son. May She help us so that we can fulfil a perfect theological and Christological conversion.**