**SATURDAY JANUARY 15 – FIRST WEEK O.T. [C]**

**Jesus heard this and said to them (that), "Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."**

**The true prophets of the living God have, as their first mission, that of calling sinners to conversion. This ministry is fulfilled by recalling the Word of the Lord. By inviting all to come back into it. The Word of the Lord is that of the covenant. The Holy Scripture is this truth: the possibility given by the Lord to every man so that he may convert. Not only does the Lord give this possibility. He also sends his prophets precisely for that: to call sinners to repentance and to conversion. Here are two examples we can read in the history of David, the great king of Israel. Here is how the Lord calls him to repentance and to conversion. First sin and first sending of the prophet: “The LORD sent Nathan to David, and when he came to him, he said: "Judge this case for me! In a certain town there were two men, one rich, the other poor. The rich man had flocks and herds in great numbers. But the poor man had nothing at all except one little ewe lamb that he had bought. He nourished her, and she grew up with him and his children. She shared the little food he had and drank from his cup and slept in his bosom. She was like a daughter to him. Now, the rich man received a visitor, but he would not take from his own flocks and herds to prepare a meal for the wayfarer who had come to him. Instead he took the poor man's ewe lamb and made a meal of it for his visitor."**

**David grew very angry with that man and said to Nathan: "As the LORD lives, the man who has done this merits death! He shall restore the ewe lamb fourfold because he has done this and has had no pity." Then Nathan said to David: "You are the man! Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'I anointed you king of Israel. I rescued you from the hand of Saul. I gave you your lord's house and your lord's wives for your own. I gave you the house of Israel and of Judah. And if this were not enough, I could count up for you still more. Why have you spurned the LORD and done evil in his sight? You have cut down Uriah the Hittite with the sword; you took his wife as your own, and him you killed with the sword of the Ammonites. Now, therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised me and have taken the wife of Uriah to be your wife.' Thus says the LORD: 'I will bring evil upon you out of your own house. I will take your wives while you live to see it, and will give them to your neighbor. He shall lie with your wives in broad daylight. You have done this deed in secret, but I will bring it about in the presence of all Israel, and with the sun looking down.'"(2Sam 12, 1-12)**

**Second sin and second sending of the prophet: David fell into the sin of pride. He wanted to count the servants of his kingdom:** “**Accordingly, Gad went to David and said to him; "Thus says the LORD: Decide now - will it be three years of famine; or three months of fleeing your enemies, with the sword of your foes ever at your back; or three days of the LORD'S own sword, a pestilence in the land, with the LORD'S destroying angel in every part of Israel? Therefore choose: What answer am I to give him who sent me?" Then David said to Gad: "I am in dire straits. But I prefer to fall into the hand of the LORD, whose mercy is very great, than into the hands of men." Therefore the LORD sent pestilence upon Israel, and seventy thousand men of Israel died. God also sent an angel to destroy Jerusalem; but as he was on the point of destroying it, the LORD saw and decided against the calamity, and said to the destroying angel, "Enough now! Stay your hand!" (1Cro21, 11-15) The Lord has always asked for conversion, in repentance and in expiation of the due punishment for the committed sin.**

**Let us read the text of Mk 2,13-17**

**Once again he went out along the sea. All the crowd came to him and he taught them. As he passed by, he saw Levi, son of Alphaeus, sitting at the customs post. He said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. While he was at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners sat with Jesus and his disciples; for there were many who followed him. Some scribes who were Pharisees saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors and said to his disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" Jesus heard this and said to them (that), "Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."**

**Every minister of the Word – and the scribe is constituted minister of the Word – must call to conversion those who turn away from obedience. If he does not do it, he has betrayed and denied his ministry. This is why the scribes accuse Jesus. They accuse him to justify themselves. With his acting, Jesus openly condemns their attitude against the Word. It is not Jesus who is against the Revelation. On the contrary, the scribes are those who have denied it. Mother of Jesus make us obedient to ever Word of the Gospel.**