**WEDNESDAY JANUARY 26 – THIRD WEEK O.T. [C]**

**SAINTS TIMOTHY AND TITUS**

**Whatever town you enter and they welcome you, eat what is set before you, cure the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God is at hand for you.'**

**Saying the kingdom, proclaiming the kingdom, manifesting the kingdom, building up the kingdom, not only invisibly, but also visibly, is the work of the missionaries of Christ Jesus. Who has to fulfil this work for all the days of his life? The first responsible for the visible and invisible building of the kingdom of God on our earth is the Apostle of the Lord and each of their successor. They have to commit all their life so that one forms the body of Christ through the preaching of the Gospel, the explicit invitation to conversion to have the eternal life and the administration of the Baptism and of the other sacraments. Here is how the Evangelist Matthew reports the words said by Jesus to his Apostles on the mountain of Galilee: Then Jesus approached and said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." (Mt 28, 18-20) This mandate lasts until the day of Parusia.**

**In hierarchical communion with the Bishops, every presbyter is called to the formation of the body of Christ, always with the proclamation of the Gospel, the explicit invitation to conversion and the administration of the sacraments of salvation. If the body of Christ is not built up and if new members do not add to it, there is no true pastoral action and not even evangelizing mission and mission of salvation. Gospel, conversion to Gospel, immersion in the water of the Baptism, visible and not only invisible belonging to the Church are unchangeable conditions for every shepherd. Here is how this truth is revealed by the Holy Spirit in the Letter of the Apostle Paul to Ephesians:** “**And he gave some as apostles, others as prophets, others as evangelists, others as pastors and teachers, to equip the holy ones for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of faith and knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the extent of the full stature of Christ, so that we may no longer be infants, tossed by waves and swept along by every wind of teaching arising from human trickery, from their cunning in the interests of deceitful scheming. Rather, living the truth in love, we should grow in every way into him who is the head, Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, with the proper functioning of each part, brings about the body's growth and builds itself up in love.” (Eph 4, 11-16) Every faithful in Christ, every member of the body of Christ, for his part, have to commit himself for the building up of the body of Christ. This is the deed of the deeds. Without this work, the pastoral might never say to be evangelic. It is only human work.**

**Let us read the text of Lk 10,1-9**

**After this the Lord appointed seventy (-two) others whom he sent ahead of him in pairs to every town and place he intended to visit. He said to them, "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest. Go on your way; behold, I am sending you like lambs among wolves. Carry no money bag, no sack, no sandals; and greet no one along the way. Into whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this household.' If a peaceful person lives there, your peace will rest on him; but if not, it will return to you. Stay in the same house and eat and drink what is offered to you, for the laborer deserves his payment. Do not move about from one house to another. Whatever town you enter and they welcome you, eat what is set before you, cure the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God is at hand for you.'**

**Here is another rule given by the Holy Spirit to live as true body of Christ and to build up the body of Christ: “There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit. To one is given through the Spirit the expression of wisdom; to another the expression of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit; to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit; to another mighty deeds; to another prophecy; to another discernment of spirits; to another varieties of tongues; to another interpretation of tongues. Now you are Christ's body, and individually parts of it. Some people God has designated in the church to be, first, apostles; second, prophets; third, teachers; then, mighty deeds; then, gifts of healing, assistance, administration, and varieties of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work mighty deeds? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts. But I shall show you a still more excellent way.” (cf 1Cor 12, 1-31) Here is the purpose of every pastoral action: building up the true body of Christ living as true body of Christ. The body of Christ is the Church. If the Church is not built up, vain is each of our actions. We are responsible eternally before the Lord of every vain action. We are omissive. We have not built up the true body of Christ. Mother of God, come to our rescue.**