**MONDAY FEBRUARY 14 – VI WEEK O.T. [C]**

**SAINTS CYRIL AND METHODIUS**

**"The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest.”**

**Jesus asks his disciples to pray the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest that is abundant but the labourers are few. In the New Testament only in the Gospel according to Luke, this command is revealed. It is not in other parts of the Holy Scripture. However, we know that the Apostle Paul always prays so that every disciple of Jesus becomes true salt and true light in Christ: “But he also always asks for prayers so that he may bring the light of the Gospel to every man, leading himself in every place of this earth: I urge you, (brothers,) by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in the struggle by your prayers to God on my behalf, that I may be delivered from the disobedient in Judea, and that my ministry for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the holy ones, so that I may come to you with joy by the will of God and be refreshed together with you. The God of peace be with all of you. Amen.” (Rm 15, 30-33) “With all prayer and supplication, pray at every opportunity in the Spirit. To that end, be watchful with all perseverance and supplication for all the holy ones and also for me, that speech may be given me to open my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel for which I am an ambassador in chains, so that I may have the courage to speak as I must.” (Eph 6, 18-20)** “**Finally, brothers, pray for us, so that the word of the Lord may speed forward and be glorified, as it did among you, and that we may be delivered from perverse and wicked people, for not all have faith. But the Lord is faithful; he will strengthen you and guard you from the evil one.” (2Ts 3, 1-3) Here is what the mission of the Apostle Paul: growing more as true light of Christ the Lord every day, being light of Christ the Lord for every man, bringing himself as true light before every man to give Christ the Lord as light of the world to every man, winning every man to Christ, light of the world. Here i show he lives this mission, according to what he himself reveals in his First Letter to the Corinthians:** “**Although I am free in regard to all, I have made myself a slave to all so as to win over as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew to win over Jews; to those under the law I became like one under the law - though I myself am not under the law - to win over those under the law. To those outside the law I became like one outside the law - though I am not outside God's law but within the law of Christ - to win over those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, to win over the weak. I have become all things to all, to save at least some. All this I do for the sake of the gospel, so that I too may have a share in it.” (1Cor 9,19-23) Perfect missionary conscience.**

**Jesus prays so that each of his disciple is and remains his disciple eternally, becoming one only thing with Him, as He and the Father are one only thing:** “**I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for the ones you have given me, because they are yours, and everything of mine is yours and everything of yours is mine, and I have been glorified in them. And now I will no longer be in the world, but they are in the world, while I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one just as we are. When I was with them I protected them in your name that you gave me, and I guarded them, and none of them was lost except the son of destruction, in order that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you. I speak this in the world so that they may share my joy completely. I gave them your word, and the world hated them, because they do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world but that you keep them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. Consecrate them in the truth. Your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I sent them into the world. And I consecrate myself for them, so that they also may be consecrated in truth. "I pray not only for them, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me.” (Jn 17, 9-21)**

**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.'**

**Why must we always pray so that the Lord send labourers to his harvest? Because the mission of salvation is of the entire body of Christ and it is entirely of each single member, even if with personal responsibilities. Since no one might fulfil it on his own, it is righteous thing that each one asks the Father for other labourers. If he does not pray, he is responsible of those who might lose themselves because of the non-knowledge of the Gospel. Mother of God, help us.**