**MONDAY FEBRUARY 28 – VIII WEEK O.T. [C]**

**Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said to him, "You are lacking in one thing. Go, sell what you have, and give to (the) poor and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me."**

**Jesus is the true poor in spirit. He is entirely handed over to the Providence of his Father, who, every day, ensures that he may have that piece of bread he needs in order to carry out his mission according to truth and justice. He does not even have a place to rest his head: "Foxes have dens and birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to rest his head." (Lk 89, 58) Let us observe and consider what Jesus says to this rich man who questions him:** “**Go, sell what you have, and give to (the) poor.” He does not say: “Go, sell what you have and put it in the money bag Judah keeps.” Jesus asks nothing for himself to this man. He asks that so that he reaches the highest perfection before the eyes of his Father. This style of Jesus must be the style of each of his Apostle and disciple. The body of Christ must work for the highest perfection of every member of the body of Christ. What the Acts of the Apostles narrate about the selling of lands or of what one owned to put it at the feet of the Apostles is only one moment of the life of the first community. Then, that form disappears: “They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their property and possessions and divide them among all according to each one's need. Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple area and to breaking bread in their homes. They ate their meals with exultation and sincerity of heart, praising God and enjoying favor with all the people. And every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.” (Act 2, 42-47)**

**After the event of Ananias and Sapphira, one no longer speaks about this lifestyle of the first community:** “**Thus Joseph, also named by the apostles Barnabas (which is translated "son of encouragement"), a Levite, a Cypriot by birth, sold a piece of property that he owned, then brought the money and put it at the feet of the apostles.** **A man named Ananias, however, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property. He retained for himself, with his wife's knowledge, some of the purchase price, took the remainder, and put it at the feet of the apostles. But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart so that you lied to the holy Spirit and retained part of the price of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain yours? And when it was sold, was it not still under your control? Why did you contrive this deed? You have lied not to human beings, but to God." When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last, and great fear came upon all who heard of it. The young men came and wrapped him up, then carried him out and buried him. After an interval of about three hours, his wife came in, unaware of what had happened. Peter said to her, "Tell me, did you sell the land for this amount?" She answered, "Yes, for that amount." Then Peter said to her, "Why did you agree to test the Spirit of the Lord? Listen, the footsteps of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." At once, she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. When the young men entered they found her dead, so they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. And great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things. (Act 4, 36-37, 5.1-11) If one does not reach the perfect poorness in spirit, the same Christ Jesus reached, one is always tempted by the things of this world. But a disciple who has the heart addressed toward the things of the world might hardly take care of the things of God.**

**Let us read the text of Mk 10,17-27**

**As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up, knelt down before him, and asked him, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus answered him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'You shall not kill; you shall not commit adultery; you shall not steal; you shall not bear false witness; you shall not defraud; honor your father and your mother.'" He replied and said to him, "Teacher, all of these I have observed from my youth." Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said to him, "You are lacking in one thing. Go, sell what you have, and give to (the) poor and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." At that statement his face fell, and he went away sad, for he had many possessions. Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" The disciples were amazed at his words. So Jesus again said to them in reply, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to pass through (the) eye of (a) needle than for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." They were exceedingly astonished and said among themselves, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "For human beings it is impossible, but not for God. All things are possible for God."**

**Jesus is the true poor in spirit. Jesus wants each of his disciple to be true poor in spirit. His Father will always take care of the one who makes himself poor in spirit for the Gospel and grows in this virtue for all days of his life without letting his heart hold on none of the things of this world. True poor in spirit is also the Mother of Jesus. She is entirely handed herself to God in body, in spirit, in soul. Woman entirely of God, make that every disciple of Jesus imitates you in your gift. Amen.**