**SATURDAY JUNE 11 – X WEEK O.T. [C]**

**ST BARNABAS THE APOSTLE**

**As you go, make this proclamation: 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, drive out demons. Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give.**

**It urges for us to highlight two truths about the mission of the Apostles: to the first mission, that was given before the fulfilment of the Paschal Mystery of Jesus the Lord, and that was lived only in favour and for the benefit of the children of Abraham, should one always add the second mission, that was given after the glorious resurrection of Jesus and that deals with the entire world. This is the first truth. The second truth is this one: no one might ever add one only word to Jesus’s commands, even the smallest and meaningless for us requirement. One must only obey the command. Here are the various commands that are indissolubly connected to the mission:**

**The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them. When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted. 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, 16-20)** **(But) later, as the eleven were at table, he appeared to them and rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart because they had not believed those who saw him after he had been raised. He said to them, "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned. These signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will drive out demons, they will speak new languages. They will pick up serpents (with their hands), and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not harm them. They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." So then the Lord Jesus, after he spoke to them, was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God. But they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word through accompanying signs.) (Mk 16, 14-20)**

**He said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and in the prophets and psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures. And he said to them, "Thus it is written that the Messiah would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And (behold) I am sending the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high." (Lk 24, 44-49)** **On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. (Jesus) said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." (Jn 20, 19-23) Now, if one owes perennial obedience to these commands, why does one preach from many sides today that they are to be delated? However, the abrogation is not proclaimed in a direct, but in an indirect way. One only example is enough: “If I say that the conversion to Christ is no longer necessary to be saved, for salvation is for everybody”, I say nothing but that preaching or not preaching Christ has no meaning in order to salvation. For every command that vanishes, it is Christ Jesus who vanishes. It is also the Church, one, holy, Catholic, Apostolic that vanishes. It is the spiritual desert.**

**Let us read the text of Mt 10,7-13**

**As you go, make this proclamation: 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, drive out demons. Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give. Do not take gold or silver or copper for your belts; no sack for the journey, or a second tunic, or sandals, or walking stick. The laborer deserves his keep. Whatever town or village you enter, look for a worthy person in it, and stay there until you leave. As you enter a house, wish it peace. If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; if not, let your peace return to you.**

**The commands are given to each Apostle of the Lord. If one falls from faith, the other one must increase a hundredfold the zeal to supply, as far as possible, the fall of the other. If only one falls, the zeal of the others might supply. However, if many fall, the zeal of the one might do very little. Since today there is a general, almost universal, tendency in disregarding the commands of the Lord, a general tendency founded on a new religion, then even if the zeal of one person might curb this drift, he might not avoid the catastrophe of the loss of faith of many people in Christ Jesus and also of the non-conversion to Christ, preached as no longer necessary for the purposes of salvation. The build-up of true humanity plunges in an idolatry and immorality from which there is no longer return. Holy Mother, help us.**