**FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 16 – XXIV WEEK O. T. [C]**

**Accompanying him were the Twelve and some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward Chuza, Susanna, and many others who provided for them out of their resources.**

**We know that Jesus preached and proclaimed the good news of the kingdom of God, going through towns and villages. His was an itinerary mission. The purpose was always the same: inviting to the conversion to the kingdom of his Father. Curing, healing, rising from the dead, performing any kind of miracles, working signs and mighty deeds is of no use, if the purpose is not proclaimed, preached, shown, taught. The purpose is only one: entering the kingdom of God. But how does one enter the kingdom of God? One enters the kingdom of God listening to the Word of Jesus and converting to it. Without the conversion to the Word, one does not enter the kingdom. One remains outside. Today this is the great danger of catholicity: no longer proclaiming the kingdom of God. If the purpose is missed, not proclaimed, if one does not invite to the purpose, the mission of the Church is vain. From supernatural mission, one makes it a purely human mission. But the Church exists for the supernatural mission. The purpose will never have to be missed. Never confused with other purposes. Never substituted with the means. In the Chruch, everything is a mean in function of the purpose. Substituting the means with the purpose is betrayal of Christ, of his mission, of the Gospel, of his Cross.**

**Jesus is not alone in his long journey of proclamation of the kingdom of God. The Twelve are always with Him. Together with the Twelve, other women who had been healed by evil spirits and infirmities follow Jesus. Jesus has done some good to them. They do some good to Jesus. Jesus has given life ot heir nn-life. They give life to Christ Jesus and to the Twelve assisting them with their resources. The first woman who is mentioned is Mary, called Magdalene. Her role is important. The Evangelist John gives her an essential role in his narration of the resurrection of the Lord. Seven demons had left her body, the text of Luke tells. The Gospel adds nothing and it is just that we neither add. Here are the other women: “Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward Chuza, Susanna, and many others who provided for them out of their resources.” These women are the Providence of the Father for Christ Jesus and for the Twelve Apostles. Without their presence, the mission of Jesus would have suffered serious retardations. The Twelve should always have cared for themselves and for Christ Jesus. The preaching would have suffered from it. Instead, no suffering. These women assist Jesus and the Twelve with their resources and Jesus can dedicate entirely to the mission with no distraction. Great is the ministry of these women. Their service is extremely worthy before the Father of heaven. To the one who hands his life over to the Gospel, to the preaching and to the proclamation of the kingdom of God, the Father of heaven always sends people who deliver him of the concerns of the things of earth. We serve Him. He serves us. The Father always makes himself material and spiritual providence of his missionaries, when his missionaries make themselves mission of Christ Jesus. The Father always works for his missionaries when the missionaries work for Christ Jesus. If the missionaries do not work for Christ, neither the Father works for them. They fall into the concerns and in the anxieties for the things of this world. This is the end of the mission.**

**Let us read the text of Lk 8,1-3**

**Afterward he journeyed from one town and village to another, preaching and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. Accompanying him were the Twelve and some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward Chuza, Susanna, and many others who provided for them out of their resources.**

**Jesus has consecrated his entire life to the spiritual and physical good of his sheep. The Father has always provided so that He never lacked anything. He has prepared a cave where to be born. A cross on which to die. A new tomb in which to be laid. He has ispired the benevolence of many people who assisted Him with their resources. However, He was also a person with exquisite material charity. What was in the apostolic box was also for the poor. Jesus received. The more was always for the miserable of this world. Judas was charged with the charity. However, he considered himself the sole poor of the world and made what remained his. For a presbyter, losing the faith in the Providence of the Father is the worst defeat. It makes him unable for the ministry. He cannot be a teacher. He cannot teach the truth of God. He may even be a good, an excellent officer of the sacred, never of holiness, of truth, of righteousness. When the concern for the things of this world takes the heart, it is the sign that we are going to fall from the faith in God the Father. It is the sign that our mission is going to be corrupted. From divine mission, little by little, it is turning into human mission. When God no longer looks after us, it is evident that we are no longer looking after Him. The Lord is never the one who fails the covenant. It is always the man. However, if man fails, God can do nothing to come to his rescue. It is necessary that the covenant is taken again and lived perfectly. The Word of the Lord is more stable than heaven and earth. It will never fail. God is obliged to it forever. The man is the one who fails and it is the man who must take again all the faith in the Word of his Lord. God gives the life to the missionary who gives his life to his God. May the Mother of God come to our rescue. May She make us of great faithfulness to the taken mission.**