**WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 21 – XXV WEEK O.T. [C]**

**SAINT MATTHEW THE APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST**

**As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the customs post. He said to him, "Follow me."**

**Jesus is Divine, Eternal Light, become light in the flesh. When He wants to attracts a person to Him, necessary to give future, stability, fulfilment to his mission of salvation, He just needs to show a ray of his splendour and the person is immediately attracted. Thus happens for Andrew and Simon, with James and John. Jesus shows himself to them along the Sea of Galilee and they immediately leave everything and follow the Teacher. The same thing happens with Matthew. This man is seated at the custom post. Jesus says only one word to him: Follow me. He gets up, leaves everything, follows Jesus. This is the extraordinary might of the light of Jesus the Lord, with which He attracts to Him all those the Father gives Him. Why does the Father bestow to Jesus, why does He bestow to the founders of orders and consecration, why does He bestow to people with a strong charismatic personality and does He not bestow to us? The answer is not as simple as it may appear. It is complex and it must be well presented. One must avoid falling into simplicity or in banality. One must deal with truth with truth. Truth is of God and also of the man of God. Of every man of God. Who is the Father? The One who wants the salvation of the world, of every man. To give his salvation He has called Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, the Judges, the Prophets. He has sent his Only Begotten Son. The Father, for about two thousand years before Christ, has called to prepare the hearts to receive his Gift of love, or his Eternal Love. We know from the Old Testament that the Lord has always called and has sent. He attracted with his light, with his Word that entered the heart and was engraved in it as the Law on the tablets of stone. With Jesus, the Father is no longer the one who calls. The Father gives, but it is Jesus who must call with his light and with the Word that is engraved into heart. With his glorious ascension to heaven, the Apostles are the ones who must call; in hierarchical communion with them, the presbyters; in communion with the presbyters, every baptised can be called and can call. The Father always bestows to Christ. Christ Jesus always bestows to his Apostles and Presbyters, He always bestows to his Church. If the gift is given, why are the vocations few?**

**The Father has a Word of eternal light with which He writes the vocation into heart. Christ Jesus, too, has a Word of eternal light with which He writes the vocation into heart. The Apostle, the Presbyter, every member of the body of Christ, as well, everyone must have a Word of light with which engraving the vocation into heart. This Word of light must arise from the heart of light of the one who must call. The heart becomes of light if it is conformed to the heart of Jesus the Lord. How can this happen? Turning the Word of the Gospel, that is the only Word of eternal life given to us, into our flesh and our life. Therefore, whoever wants to engrave the vocation in the heart of a man, in order to be able to continue the mission of salvation and of redemption tomorrow, must necessarily turn his heart into heart of light, into a heart where the Word of the Lord dwells, into a heart where the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit dwell. If the Blessed Trinity dwells in the fullness of its mystery, also the Virgin Mary will dwell there with the Angels and the Saints being like a crown, for She is their true Queen. The vocation is together gift and fruit.**

**Let us read the text of Mt 9,9-13**

**As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the customs post. He said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. While he was at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat with Jesus and his disciples. The Pharisees saw this and said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" He heard this and said, "Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. Go and learn the meaning of the words, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."**

**Jesus comes on our earth. He brings the most pure wineskin of the Word of his Father in the absolute purity of his truth, light, mercy, charity, hope, holiness. The purity is so high that one might never add other light, other truth, other charity, other mercy, other hope in eternity. What does the religious world where He lives ask Him? That He puts the wineskin of his Word in the wineskins of their tradition, of their thoughts, of their holiness, of their righteousness. If Jesus had put his wineskin in the old wineskin, of sin, of the religious world where He lived, it would have been the death of his Gospel. Hi did not fall into this temptation. Eve fell. Adam fell. The people of God fell. He did not fall. He has kept his wineskin immaculate, pure, holy, true, in the full justice according to the will of the Father. Today the children of the Church are strongly tempted. What is their temptation? Not that of idolatry. This is a fruit. Not that of immorality. This is a fruit, too. The temptation is to change the wineskin. We are all tempted to abandon the wineskin of the Word of God, substituting the wineskin of the thought of men. The wineskin of the most pure faith in the Word should be substituted with the wineskin of the modern theologies that are not theologies actually, for they are often only theologies in favour of sin, of transgression, of disobedience to the Word. Mother of God, deliver us from these lethal heresies.**