**TUESDAY OCTOBER 18 – XIX WEEK O.T. [C]**

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

**To understand what Jesus says to his disciples: “The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few”, we must enter the depth and the abyss of the mystery of Christ the Lord. Who is Christ Jesus? The one whom the Father has entrusted the redemption, the salvation, the eternal life, the light, the truth, the peace, the reconciliation, the forgiveness for every man, of every time, of every nation and language. But Christ the Lord is only one and moreover He, too, as true man, is subjected to the law of the limit of his body. If He is in a place, he will not be able to be in another one and if He is in Jerusalem, He might not be in Galilee. How can Jesus be redemption, salvation, eternal life, light, truth, peace, reconciliation, forgiveness for the entire redemption? The Holy Spirit comes to his rescue. First, He associates the Twelve Apostles to his ministry and then He adds other seventy-two disciples. Every Apostle and every disciple in Christ, with Christ, through Christ, receives the same mission that is of Christ Jesus: giving salvation, redemption, righteousness, peace, holiness, life, forgiveness, reconciliation to every man. But every disciple and every Apostle are they too subject to the limit of the body. If they are in a nation, they cannot be in another one and if they carry out the mission in a territory, they might never carry it out in another one. How to do to accomplish the universal mission of salvation and of redemption? The Holy Spirit must come to rescue of every Apostle and of every disciple of Jesus day after day as well and suggest them a heartfelt and uninterrupted prayer, so that the heavenly Father gives him, too, as He has given them to Christ Jesus other labourers that, in communion with him and with all the body of the Church, everyone with his particular spiritual gift, his personal vocation and mission, his special consecration to Christ, may fulfil the mystery of salvation and of redemption. To ask for help to the Holy Spirit, a very strong convincement of faith is needed. The mission of salvation of the world that is of Christ Jesus is all entrusted on his body. Every member of the body is clothed with the entire mission of salvation and of redemption. Communion with every other member and endless prayer to the Holy Spirit so that He comes to his rescue are the two truths that must always govern the heart of every disciple of Jesus. If even one of these truths fails from the heart of the disciple of Jesus, he will always be inefficacious in order to the fulfilment of the mystery of salvation and of redemption. Either he will lack the convincement that the entire world to redeem and to save was entrusted on him. Or, he will lack the other fundamental truth that only in the communion with every member of the body – and always adding, the Holy Spirit, new labourers - he might fulfil the mission that was entrusted on him by Christ Jesus upon command of our Father that is in heaven.**

**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.'**

**Here is another truth, necessary as well, so that one may carry out the mission of salvation and of redemption. Every labourer of Christ Jesus, any mission or ministry he exercises, must never lose sight of the true purpose of his mission ad this purpose consists of the building of the body of Christ, always adding new members to it. One proclaims that the kingdom of God is to come. But one must also add that one becomes kingdom of God becoming true body of Christ and one must live and work as true body of Christ. The kingdom of God might never exist out of the body of Christ. One becomes kingdom of God becoming true body of Christ and this is why the conversion to the Word of Jesus and the immersion in the baptism to be born from water and from Holy Spirit is necessary, becoming new creatures in Christ. Without the conversion to the Word of God and without the immersion in the water of the baptism, one might become kingdom of God, for one can live the kingdom of God only in Christ, with Christ, through Christ. Today this truth is disappearing. It urges to put it at the centre of our heart, of our life, of our mission. The life of the body of Christ, of his Church, is entrusted to every disciple of Jesus. If the disciple of Jesus does not care about growing the Church in both holiness and adding new members to it, his life of disciple is a true failure. As Christian, he failed for he has not given life to the Church of Christ Jesus. He was not given other missions. Either he gives life to this mission or he is not disciple of Jesus. May the Mother of God come to our rescue. We want to live the mission upon the model of Jesus.**