**WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 30 – I WEEK OF ADVENT [A]**

**SAINT ANDREW THE APOSTLE**

**He said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him.**

**It is a righteous thing for us to ask: what is the difference between Moses, a prophet of the Old Testament and an Apostle of Christ Jesus? Moses and all the prophets of the Old Testament are from the Word of the Lord. The Lord gives a Word, they either refer it or fulfil them directly. The Apostles of Christ Jesus first see everything that Jesus has done, they first listen to all the Words that Christ Jesus has said, then with the Holy Spirit in them who will remind them everything that Christ Jesus has done and said, they must go into the world, doing and saying what Christ Jesus has shown and said to them. It is not about repeating, though. Not only must the Apostles do and say what Jesus has done and said, each of their successors will have to do and say only what Christ Jesus has done and said. How can this happen? Showing, every apostle to every bishop his successor and every successor of the Apostles to every other successor, what Christ Jesus has done and said. However, not as a repetition, but according to the historical ways suggested by the Holy Spirit. Here is the handover done by Christ Jesus to his Apostles. Let us begin from a question: What has the Father given to Christ Jesus to hand over to his Apostles? He has given all himself, all the Holy Spirit, but also all Christ Jesus. Here is what Jesus the Lord must give to all of us: all the Father, all the Holy Spirit, all himself. What is the way so that Christ the Lord gives us all the Father and all the Holy Spirit in the gift of himself? Giving all himself until the death of cross to the Father, always led and guided by the Holy Spirit. If Christ does not give all himself to the Father, annihilating and denying himself until the death of cross, He might never give us the Father and the Holy Spirit in the gift of himself. Here is then the principle of truth that must always be observed: if the Apostle of the Lord wants to give the world all Christ in which the Father and the Holy Spirit are, he must give himself to Christ Jesus, handing himself over and annihilating himself until death and to a death of cross, as well. Jesus receives the life from the Father. Jesus hands life over to the Father – this is his true *traditio* – in the total annihilation of himself. In this true *traditio* to the Father, He is given to us by the Father. The Father, giving Him to us, gives us Himself and the Holy Spirit in Him. Here is the true *traditio* or handover of Christ to us: to us does Christ Jesus give his Word, his flesh, his blood, his Mother, his Father, his Holy Spirit, his death, his resurrection, his eternal glory. He has given us everything he has received from the Father, he has even given us his sonship together with the participation of the divine nature. He is the eternal Son of the Father and in Him we are true children of the Father, through the gift of his sonship. Christ Jesus has given these divine, eternal, also human gifts to us after having brought them to the utmost fructification in his body. The utmost fructification happens on the cross. From the cross he gives us the forgiveness and the expiation of the sins, the grace and the Holy Spirit for our sanctification. Since in the body of Christ the life of Christ is participated in a different and distinct for each of his member, every member must know what his participation of the life of Christ is and, according to this participation, he must make the entire world participative. What has he handed over to his Apostles that he has not given to the other members of his body? To them, He has handed over the ministry of the Word and of the vigilance over the Word. He has handed over the authority to make other Bishops, Presbyters, Deacons. He has handed over the authority to make his body and his blood. He has handed over the authority to loose and to bind. He has handed over every other power that the Father has given to Him. He has handed over the power to baptise in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. He has handed over the power to create in the heart the true hope, as He has created the true hope. He has handed over to them his Mother. Why has He handed over his Mother as their true Mother? He has given Her so that they give Her to every other man as their true Mother. Everything that Jesus has received by the Father, He has handed it over to his Apostles so that they give it to every other man. Immortal truth. Truth that will always have to govern the Apostles of Jesus the Lord. They must give what they have received. They will never have to dedicate themselves to give what they have not received. They must give it making it become fruit of their obedience of their love to Christ Jesus.**

**Let us read the text of Mt 4,18-22**

**As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen. He said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him. He walked along from there and saw two other brothers, James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat, with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed him.**

**Since the first day of his mission Jesus calls men so that tomorrow they be those who will have to hand Him over to every other man. They see everything of Christ, they listen to everything, they must give everything of Christ in the Holy Spirit. If they do not give Christ giving themselves to Christ, their mission will remain fruitless. May the Mother of God help us so that the disciple of Christ give all Christ giving himself entirely to Christ. It is the only way to give Christ.**