**SATURDAY DECEMBER 03 – I WEEK OF ADVENT [A]**

**At the sight of the crowds, his heart was moved with pity for them because they were troubled and abandoned, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "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 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, what is more, He, too, as true man, is subjected to the law of the limit of his body. If He is in a place, He might not be in another one and if He is Judea, He might not be in the Galilee. How can Jesus be redemption, salvation, eternal life, light, truth, peace, reconciliation, forgiveness for the entire humanity? The Holy Spirit comes to our rescue. Jesus associates the Twelve Apostles. Every Apostle 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 even every Apostle is subjected to the limit of the body. If one is in a nation, he might not be in another one and if he carries out a mission in a territory, he might not 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 the rescue of every Apostle of Jesus every day as well and suggest his heart a heartfelt and uninterrupted prayer so that the heavenly Father gives him, too, as He has given to Christ Jesus, other labourers who, in communion with him and with the entire 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 the Holy Spirit for help, one needs a very strong convincement of faith. The mission of salvation of the world that is of Christ Jesus is entirely entrusted to his body that is the Church. Every member of the body is clothed with the whole mission of salvation and of redemption that is Christ Jesus. Communion with every other member and relentless prayer to the Holy Spirit so that He comes to his rescue are the two truths that must always rule the heart of every Apostle of Jesus. If even one of these two truths fail from the heart of the Apostle of Jesus, he will always be ineffective in relation 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 has been 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 will be able to fulfil the mission that has been entrusted on him by Jesus upon command of our Father who is in heaven.**

**Let us read the text of Mt 9,35-38-10.1.6-8**

**Jesus went around to all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and curing every disease and illness. At the sight of the crowds, his heart was moved with pity for them because they were troubled and abandoned, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest." Then he summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits to drive them out and to cure every disease and every illness.** **Go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. 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.**

**Here is another truth, necessary too, 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 and 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 at hand. But one must also add that one becomes kingdom of God becoming true body of Christ and as true body one must live and work. 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 again from water and from Holy Spirit, becoming new creatures in Christ, is necessary. Without the conversion to the Word of God and without immersion in the water of the baptism, one might not 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 us to put it at the core of our heart, of our life, of our mission. The salvation of the world is entirely entrusted on every disciple of Christ Jesus. Each one is given a personal responsibility, though. The first responsibility is of the Apostle of the Lord, then of the presbyter, then of the deacon, then of the confirmed, then of the baptised. In the communion with each other, the entire mission of Christ will always continue to live on our earth. However, if one fails, the other must multiply the work so that nothing is taken away from the mission of Jesus the Lord. Instead, today is competing over who destroys the body of Christ more. May the Mother of God come to our rescue so that we all live the mission upon the model of Christ Jesus.**