**FRIDAY JANUARY 20 – II WEEK O.T. [A]**

**He went up the mountain and summoned those whom he wanted and they came to him. He appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) that they might be with him and he might send them forth to preach and to have authority to drive out demons**

**Moses goes up the mountain and descends with the Two Tablets of the Law. Jesus goes up the mountain and descends with the tablets with the names of the twelve Apostles written on them. As Jesus descends from the heart of the Father so that the Father creates the new humanity in Him in his Son, in all those who through the faith in the Gospel accept to be saved in the name of Christ Jesus, so until the day of the creation of the new heaven and of the new earth the Apostles, through the work of the Holy Spirit, must descend on earth through the heart of Christ to continue the work of the new creation in the world. As Christ Jesus is eternally in the core of the Father so the Apostles must live, dwell eternally in the heart of Christ. If they leave the heart of Christ, they are like branches that are separated by the true vine and will never bear one only fruit of the new creation of humanity. One remains in the heart of Christ, remaining in his Word. The unity with Christ and with Christ the unity with God is demanded by Christ Jesus with heartfelt prayer.**

**"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and everyone that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit. You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you. Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you.” (Jn 15, 1-14)**

**“I do not ask that you take them out of the world but that you keep them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. Consecrate them in the truth. Your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I sent them into the world. And I consecrate myself for them, so that they also may be consecrated in truth. "I pray not only for them, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me. And I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may be brought to perfection as one, that the world may know that you sent me, and that you loved them even as you loved me. Father, they are your gift to me. I wish that where I am they also may be with me, that they may see my glory that you gave me, because you loved me before the foundation of the world. Righteous Father, the world also does not know you, but I know you, and they know that you sent me. I made known to them your name and I will make it known, that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in them." (Jn 17,15-26). Here is the secret of every Apostle of the Lord: he must descend among men always from the heart of Christ Jesus. If he descends among men from the heart of the world, he is no longer apostle of the Lord. He turns himself into an apostle of the world. If he is an apostle of the world, he will work against Christ Jesus and his Gospel. The work of Satan has been, is and will always be that: turning an apostle of Christ Jesus into an apostle of the world, into one of his apostles.**

**Let us read the text of Mk 3, 13-19**

**He went up the mountain and summoned those whom he wanted and they came to him. He appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) that they might be with him and he might send them forth to preach and to have authority to drive out demons: (he appointed the twelve:) Simon, whom he named Peter; James, son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James, whom he named Boanerges, that is, sons of thunder; Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus; Thaddeus, Simon the Cananean, and Judas Iscariot who betrayed him.**

**Can an apostle of Christ Jesus turn himself into an apostle of the devil, if he has been sent by his Teacher and Lord in the world to drive out the demons from the heart, from the soul, from the body of every man? He will drive out demons, driving out the thought of Satan from the heart of men and in its place putting the most pure Gospel of Christ Jesus. If he goes in the world to give strength to the thoughts of the world, it would be better for him never to have been an apostle of the Lord. The betrayal of Judas is a more miserable thing than the betrayal of an apostle of Christ who turns himself into an apostle of the world. May the Mother of God not let this happen.**