**22 JANUARY 2023 – III SUNDAY O.T. [A]**

**From that time on, Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."**

**It is righteous for everyone to ask a question: “Who can preach the conversion and the faith in the Gospel so that one enters the kingdom of God that is at hand, that is about to come? Only the one who, like Christ Jesus, is victor over the devil will do it. First Jesus overcomes every temptation of Satan and then begins the preaching. The victories over temptations are immediately before the beginning of the evangelizing mission of Jesus the Lord and immediately after that the Holy Spirit has placed over Jesus, after having received the Baptism of John: “Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. John tried to prevent him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?" Jesus said to him in reply, "Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed him. After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened (for him), and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove (and) coming upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." (Mt 3,13-17) “Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry. The tempter approached and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread." He said in reply, "It is written: 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city, and made him stand on the parapet of the temple, and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written: 'He will command his angels concerning you and 'with their hands they will support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test.'" Then the devil took him up to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence, and he said to him, "All these I shall give to you, if you will prostrate yourself and worship me." At this, Jesus said to him, "Get away, Satan! It is written: 'The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve.'" Then the devil left him and, behold, angels came and ministered to him.” (Mt 4,1-11).**

**If today we are not enslaved to the thought of Satan and slaves of sin, we cannot certainly preach the Gospel. We are not victors over Satan. We are his servants. A servant of Satan can never give voice to the Gospel. Only the one who is servant of Christ Jesus can give voice to the Gospel and only the one who overcomes Satan and until he overcomes hi mis a servant of Christ Jesus. All the problems that one invents today so that the Gospel is no longer announced find their truth in the slavery of the Christian under the power of the prince of the world. Here is why the Apostle Paul puts the perfect exemplarity in all things as principle and fundament so that one may proclaim the Gospel in fullness of truth. This means the complete victory over Satan and over every thought of this world: “We cause no one to stumble in anything, in order that no fault may be found with our ministry; on the contrary, in everything we commend ourselves as ministers of God, through much endurance, in afflictions, hardships, constraints, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, vigils, fasts; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, in a holy spirit, in unfeigned love, in truthful speech, in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness at the right and at the left; through glory and dishonor, insult and praise. We are treated as deceivers and yet are truthful; as unrecognized and yet acknowledged; as dying and behold we live; as chastised and yet not put to death; as sorrowful yet always rejoicing; as poor yet enriching many; as having nothing and yet possessing all things.” (2Cor 6,3-10). The one who does not overcome Satan in his life can never say a most pure truth of Gospel. He will say a word adapted to the world, to darkness, to the thought of Satan, deceiving the entire world.**

**Let us read the text of Mt 4,12-23**

**When he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what had been said through Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled: "Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the way to the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who sit in darkness have seen a great light, on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death light has arisen."****From that time on, Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." 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. He went around all of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and curing every disease and illness among the people.**

**The false compassion, the false mercy, the false announcing, the false Christ, the false Gospel that today are given as most pure nourishment are all fruits of our non-victory over Satan. We are servants of Satan and we speak as his servants. May the Mother of Jesus, the One who crushed the head to the ancient serpent, deliver us from this slavery.**