**WEDNESDAY JULY 07 – XIV WEEK O.T. [B]**

**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.**

**Once, when one studied the treatise on grace and one got to the works, these were divided into three distinct categories: the natural works that are all those that a nature can produce. It is natural that an apple tree produces apples and it is natural that the vineyard produces grape.**

**The preternatural works are those that a nature cannot produce, but another nature produces them. Let us read in the Gospel according to Matthew: "See that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Messiah,' and they will deceive many. You will hear of wars and reports of wars; see that you are not alarmed, for these things must happen, but it will not yet be the end. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be famines and earthquakes from place to place. All these are the beginning of the labor pains. Then they will hand you over to persecution, and they will kill you. You will be hated by all nations because of my name. And then many will be led into sin; they will betray and hate one another. Many false prophets will arise and deceive many; and because of the increase of evildoing, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who perseveres to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached throughout the world as a witness to all nations, and then the end will come. If anyone says to you then, 'Look, here is the Messiah!' or, 'There he is!' do not believe it. False messiahs and false prophets will arise, and they will perform signs and wonders so great as to deceive, if that were possible, even the elect. Behold, I have told it to you beforehand.” (cf. Mt 24, 4-25) These miracles and these wonders made by false christs and false prophets are preternatural works. For this reason, no miracle made by a living person is used for his cause of beatification. After his death and operated for his intercession, surely it is work coming from God. It is God who fulfils for his intervention.**

**Then there are the supernatural works. These are the works that only the Lord can fulfil, in Christ, through the action of his Holy Spirit. The works that the Apostles fulfil during their mission are supernatural since they are fruit of the powers Christ Jesus gave them: “He gave them authority over unclean spirits to drive them out and to cure every disease and every illness.” Christ Jesus operates with the finger of God and the Apostles, too, operate with the finger of God. The supernatural works are visible and invisible. We know that the visible works may not be always supernatural, but also preternatural: “False messiahs and false prophets will arise, and they will perform signs and wonders so great as to deceive, if that were possible, even the elect.” While the invisible works that are the conversion to Gospel and the transformation into nature of man, who from son of Adam becomes true son of God, for birth from water and Holy Spirit, being invisible must be turned into visible works through a life of perfect evangelic exemplarity. Here is what can happen: a true conversion, a most pure adhesion to faith, can, after time, become a return into flesh. It is what the Apostle Paul denounces to the Galatians:** “**You were running well; who hindered you from following (the) truth? That enticement does not come from the one who called you. A little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough. I am confident of you in the Lord that you will not take a different view, and that the one who is troubling you will bear the condemnation, whoever he may be. As for me, brothers, if I am still preaching circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case, the stumbling block of the cross has been abolished. Would that those who are upsetting you might also castrate themselves!**

**For you were called for freedom, brothers. But do not use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh; rather, serve one another through love. For the whole law is fulfilled in one statement, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you go on biting and devouring one another, beware that you are not consumed by one another. I say, then: live by the Spirit and you will certainly not gratify the desire of the flesh. For the flesh has desires against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; these are opposed to each other, so that you may not do what you want. But if you are guided by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are obvious: immorality, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, rivalry, jealousy, outbursts of fury, acts of selfishness, dissensions, factions, occasions of envy, drinking bouts, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. In contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. Now those who belong to Christ (Jesus) have crucified their flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also follow the Spirit. Let us not be conceited, provoking one another, envious of one another.” (Gal 5, 4-26) The fact that the Galatians have returned into flesh does not mean that the Gospel of Paul was not true or that their conversion was fictitious. It means, on the contrary, that the conversion has not been supported by a true path of sanctification in the research of the perfect exemplarity with Christ Jesus. The conversion is in an instant. The sanctification lasts a lifetime. Without the path of sanctification, sooner or later one returns into the works of flesh. The Gospel of Paul remains true in eternal. Whoever did not perseverate is the one who had been converted by the voice of Paul. Every conversion is true supernatural work, since it occurs through the mysterious action of the Holy Spirit. As well as a truly supernatural work is the path of conformation to Christ Jesus Crucified. But these works, too, may be read with the wicked and evil heart of man and declared exaltation, hypocrisy, deceit, lie. The Christian knows this and before every declaration of falsity from the wicked heart, he walks along his path that has to lead him until being declared a blasphemer and condemned by death as an enemy of God. These are the tragedies consuming in our history.**

**Let us read in the text of Mt 10,1-7**

**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. The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon called Peter, and his brother Andrew; James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew, Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James, the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddeus; Simon the Cananean, and Judas Iscariot who betrayed him. Jesus sent out these twelve after instructing them thus, "Do not go into pagan territory or enter a Samaritan town. Go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, make this proclamation: 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'**

**Since history is of the person who lives it, the person might always witness the work or the works that the Holy Spirit fulfilled in him, but this witness may always be declared false by the man in whose heart the Lord does not dwell or, even worse, by the man who has trampled his conscience or has suffocated it so that it does no longer let its voice be heard. As Jesus walked through his way in the thousands of difficulties of every day – the Pharisees had already decreed his death since the very first days after the beginning of his mission, in Nazareth, on the same day he spoke in their synagogue, decree that became executive when for Christ Jesus it was time to die – so also each of his disciple must walk in the listening of the Holy Spirit, voluntary undergoing to every decree of death as Stephen, Jacob, Peter, Paul and all the martyrs and confessors of faith did. As the world hated Christ Jesus, so it will hate each of his disciple, as well. But the disciple knows what is waiting for him: "If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.” The Christian knows he is a consigned to death. His works may be even supernatural, but the world will always say that they are works in him of the devil. This is the perennial battle between light and darkness. Virgin of Light, do not allow that your children abandon the way of truth and grace for the fear of the world. Amen.**