Friday of the Thirteenth Week in Ordinary Time

Gospel text (*Mt* 9:9-13): As Jesus passed by, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the customs post. He said to him, “Follow me.” ... The Pharisees saw this and said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” He heard this and said... "I did not come to call the righteous but sinners.”

The new evangelization: renewal of the Church

EDITORIAL TEAM evangeli.net (based on texts by Benedict XVI)
(Città del Vaticano, Vatican)

Today, we look at God’s merciful love: compassionate with our weakness, He has come to "call" us and "lead" us to His Love. The Church, clasping sinners to her bosom, is at once Holy and always in need of purification and following constantly the path of renewal. This renewal is part of the "new evangelization". So, the celebration of the Jubilee Year 2000 and the announcement of the "Year of Faith" and other events are an invitation to an ever fuller conversion to God.

Faith must be lived by works of love. The renewal of the Church is also achieved through the witness offered by the life of believers: by their very existence in the world, Christians are called to radiate the Word of truth that the Lord Jesus has left us.

-Through faith, this new life of the baptized shapes the whole of human existence according to the radical new reality of the resurrection. Faith working through love becomes a new criterion of understanding and action that changes the whole of man’s life.