Monday of the Eighth Week in Ordinary Time

Gospel text (*Mk* 10:17-27): As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up, knelt down before him, and asked him, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus answered him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: You shall not kill; you shall not commit adultery; you shall not steal; you shall not bear false witness; you shall not defraud; honor your father and your mother." He replied and said to him, "Teacher, all of these I have observed from my youth." Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said to him, "You are lacking in one thing. Go, sell what you have, and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." At that statement, his face fell, and he went away sad, for he had many possessions...

Christian poverty: detachment from earthly riches

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

Today, we cross the "anonymous" figure of the "rich young man". If he had responded positively to the invitation of Jesus, he would have become his disciple and we would now probably know his name. If man puts his trust in the riches of this world, he will not reach the full sense of life and of true joy.

Jesus, therefore, can truly guarantee a happy existence and eternal life, but by a route different from what the rich young man imagines: that is, not through a good work, a legal tribute, but rather in the choice of the Kingdom of God as the "precious pearl" for which it is worth selling all that one possesses. The rich youth is not able to take this step. Notwithstanding that he has been the object of the loving gaze of Jesus, his heart is not able to detach itself from the many goods that he possessed.

—Jesus does not say the earthly riches are bad, but that they distance one from God if they are not, so to speak, "invested" for the Kingdom of Heaven.