January 26th: Memorial of Saints Timothy and Titus, Bishops

Gospel text (*Lk* 10:1-9): The Lord Jesus appointed seventy-two disciples whom he sent ahead of him in pairs to every town and place he intended to visit. He said to them, "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest. Go on your way; behold, I am sending you like lambs among wolves. Carry no money bag, no sack, no sandals; and greet no one along the way.

Into whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this household.' If a peaceful person lives there, your peace will rest on him; but if not, it will return to you. Stay in the same house and eat and drink what is offered to you, for the laborer deserves payment. Do not move about from one house to another. Whatever town you enter and they welcome you, eat what is set before you, cure the sick in it and say to them, 'The Kingdom of God is at hand for you.'"

"The Lord Jesus appointed seventy-two disciples whom he sent ahead of him in pairs to every town and place he intended to visit"

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Today, we celebrate the memory of St. Timothy and of St. Titus, bishops. They distinguished themselves just for answering "yes" to the Lord. What a joy for all of us to see the generosity and dedication of these two disciples of St. Paul! They met with difficulties in their preaching, but they remained faithful, they were able to pull themselves together and they have borne witness.

"So ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest. Go on your way; behold, I am sending you like lambs among wolves. Carry no money bag, no sack, no sandals" (Lk 10:2-4). Behold here two key words these saints have certainly been experiencing: praying (praying the Lord that many will continue to be their disciples); and generosity to be able to follow Him (what difficulties are we to face to bring in the Good News?).

Today, we are also called by the Lord to bear witness; He urges us to be his "collaborators". "Paul availed himself of collaborators… yet it clearly appears that he did not do everything on his own but relied on trustworthy people who shared in his endeavors and responsibilities" (Benedict XVI). St. Timothy and St. Titus were capable of bringing the Gospel to different places in Asia Minor, while confirming in the faith several Christian communities that were in need of their support to keep on moving further on.

“Into whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace to this household.’ If a peaceful person lives there, your peace will rest on him; but if not, it will return to you” (Lk 10:5-6). Peace is the fruit of the announcement of the Gospel. Wherever these saints were going they were bringing in the Lord's peace: it would be beautiful that we could bring everybody, wherever we might be, the true peace of the Lord, while participating in the Holy Eucharist and enjoying its teachings. To get there, St. Augustine recommends to us: “If you want to be a peacemaker between two quarreling friends of yours, begin the work of making peace with yourself; you should first pacify yourself inside, where perhaps you are wrangling and brawling with yourself every day.”