

Fr. Romeo Homily
April 7, 2019
Fifth Sunday of Lent (C)

- He never gave up, he was always willing to start again.

This is what Jesus is telling us today – to start again. To the woman caught in adultery, Jesus tells her to go and sin no more. She had no excuses. People saw her in that state of sin, which was punishable in the eyes of the community. But Jesus, in His mercy and love, gave her another chance and asked her to begin again with a better life than before. This was the same message Jesus gave to the accusers of the adulterous woman. He showed them what being compassionate meant. He made them realize how overwhelming the love of God can be. This should make them realize how they can change. Thus, for the pharisees, scribes, and elders of the community, He offered new beginnings. He offers the same to us today – to start again as renewed persons of God.

And the best way to start again is to never stop asking forgiveness from God through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, like the woman, we allow ourselves to fall into the hands of God, to be caught in love. Some of us are afraid of confession, not quite sure we truly need it. Others have abandoned the sacrament, fearing anger, judgment, and condemnation.

But God wants us in confession as Jesus waited for this woman after her sinful act. In this sacrament, Jesus shows how much the Father loves us. God is all mercy, forgiveness, encouragement, and hope for us today. In our hearts we know that though change is difficult and slow, the most beautiful words that can trigger transformation are the words “I forgive you”.

The woman heard these words and entered into new life. Let us follow her example and open our hearts to Jesus’ loving invitation to be reconciled with Him through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

God never stops loving all of us. There will always be second chances. There will always be unending hope. There will always be new beginnings. All of this will happen in front of a God who is bigger than all our failures and sins – for He is a God who allows us to start again and again.

Amen.