

Fr. Romeo Evangelista Homily
Weekday Mass – Friday, March 26, 2021
Cycle B

The Gospel begins with the attempt of the Jews to stone Jesus. This has been triggered by Jesus' assertion: "The Father and I are one". Jesus asks the Jews for which of His good works was He being condemned. They tell Him they are stoning Him because of His claim of divinity, which is blasphemy. Jesus presents His defense, reasserting His oneness with the Father, proven by the works that He does.

Naturally, they are unconvinced and they attempt to arrest Him, but He eludes them and goes back to the place where John had baptized.

There is an important detail in our Gospel readings. "He went back across the Jordan to the place where John first baptized". This brings us back to the beginning of the Gospel of John where we first saw Jesus in the same place where John was baptizing. The ministry of Jesus has come full circle. The end—the last days of His public ministry makes us pause and go back to the first days.

While we do not necessarily speak about the end of our life and ministry, we do need to go back occasionally. We need time to relish the beginning or to revisit the first steps we have taken. This is why we have "recollections" when we gather once again. Significant moments and experiences, and why we have "retreats", when we pause and return to our reasons and motivations, and thus, make sense of the events of our life. This is why, in moments of crisis and tension, we go back to the time when God called us – so that our zeal and fervor may be renewed.

Amen