

Fr. Romeo Evangelista Homily  
Weekday Mass – Thursday, July 30, 2020  
Cycle A

It is but natural for Jesus to use illustrations from fishing when He is speaking to fishermen. It is as if He was saying, “Look how your daily work speaks to you of the things of heaven”.

One way of fishing in Jesus’ time and place was with the dragnet, which is referred to in today’s Gospel parable. A dragnet is usually spread out between two boats that drag it toward the shoreline. By the time the boats reach the shoreline, the dragnet would be filled with all sorts of fish and other things that it sweeps. Once the dragnet is drawn to land, the catch is separated. The useless materials are flung away, and the good ones are put into containers.

Today’s Gospel parable has two great lessons for us:

1. It is the nature of the dragnet that it does not, and cannot discriminate. It is bound to catch or draw in all kinds of things in its course through the water. Its contents are bound to be a mixture.
2. The separation of the good catch from the bad will certainly come. The good and the bad will be sent to their respective destinations. That separation, however, is not our work but God’s.

One important application of the first lesson is this: The Church, which is the instrument of God’s Kingdom on Earth, cannot be discriminative. The Church is bound to be a mixture of all kinds of people. As William Barclay put it, “The Church must be open to all....must be inclusive”.

This also applies to us as individuals. It is our duty to gather in all who will come, and not to judge or separate. Judgment is not ours to pass. We must leave that to God.

As Christians our duty is to relate with one another with the heart of God.

Amen