

Fr. Romeo Evangelista Homily  
Weekday Mass – Wednesday, November 11, 2020  
Cycle A

Gratitude, they say, is the memory of the heart. Indeed, at the heart of gratitude is remembering or not forgetting.

In the parable, the nine lepers may have been too “overwhelmed” with joy at their having been cleansed that they forgot to thank Jesus. But gratitude has so overwhelmed the heart of the Samaritan that, while he may have overlooked showing himself to the priest (perhaps as a Samaritan he is not burdened by Jewish ritual prescriptions), he returns and gives thanks. Thus, the nine Jews prove themselves obedient to Jesus’ words, but the Samaritan sees gratitude as his primary response to what God, in Jesus, has done for him.

This is a very good reminder for all of us Christians. That in our desire to follow the Lord what comes first is Gratitude. It is by being grateful first that we can truly find the meaning of our responsibilities as Christians.

With this, I remember our neighbor in the Philippines. She was so concerned of fulfilling her obligations to attend mass not only on Sundays but all Holidays of obligation. And she also attend the daily mass but I couldn’t sense gratitude in her. She rarely smiled at people. She always seemed to be carrying a burden. My dear friends, Gratitude is a close associate of happiness. A grateful person is a happy person. Like the nine lepers, maybe she was so overwhelmed in fulfilling her obligations that she forgot to give thanks to God first.

We may be overtaken by our concern to “offer” God something in return for the blessings we receive, but God is more pleased with a grateful heart than with any offering.

Amen