

Fr. Romeo Evangelista Homily
Weekday Mass – Friday, November 20, 2020
Cycle A

We said yesterday that Jesus shed tears, not so much about the destruction of a building, but because of the suffering people inflict on themselves when they refuse to listen to His message of peace – similarly, the cleansing of the Temple is not just the cleansing of the holy building, but of the House of God from business and corruption.

The Temple stands for God’s relationship with His people, the Body of Jesus who compared His Body with the Temple. It stands for all followers of Christ whom Saint Peter called “temple of the Holy Spirit”.

As the Temple area was polluted by moneymaking vendors, the relationship of Israel with God had been polluted by greed and rebellion. Prophets and people sent by God had been persecuted and even killed. This pained Jesus so much that in a prophetic action, He showed the people how they were offending the love and kindness of God. And soon they would arrest, torture, and even kill Him, the real Temple of God.

But Jesus also saw the defilement of many temples of the Holy Spirit, of us. There are those who ignore God and engage in sinful and selfish acts. There are those who engage in corruption and end up suffering when they are exposed. So much evil is done by us.

Jesus wants us to be saved. But we often live our life as if there were no external tomorrow. Look at the angry Jesus today, at the frustration of a lover whose love is refused, loving parents who experience ingratitude. We need to stop our sinful ways so that we may also stop causing pain on God.

Amen