

Fr. Romeo Evangelista Homily
Weekday Mass – Thursday, May 14, 2020
Cycle A

From the episode of Matthias being chosen as one of the Twelve, we find a very important truth: that the function of an Apostle was to be a witness to the resurrection. The real mark of a Christian is not that he knows about Jesus but that he knows Jesus. The basic mistake in Christianity is to regard Jesus as someone who lived and died, whose life we study and whose story we read. Jesus is not a figure in a book. He is a living presence. And the Christian is a man whose whole life is a witness to the fact that he knows and has met the Risen Lord.

We look briefly at the method of choosing someone to take the place of Judas among the Twelve. Our present times will find it strange that the method was that of casting lots. How undemocratic! Yet, for the Jews, it was natural because all the offices and duties in the Temple were settled that way. The names of the candidates were written on stones that were put into a vessel. The vessel was shaken until one stone fell out. He whose name was on that stone was elected to office. By casting lots, the choice is left to God's will.

For our days, we may not make our choices by casting lots but we remain open to God's will: Whom does God choose? What is His will? One important step in the choice of Matthias was what the community did: they prayed.

This was indeed a community of faith. In his speech, Peter gave reference to Sacred Scripture. An important aspect of discernment is the use of the Word of God. Beginning our day or any important activity is always a choice moment to listen to God who speaks.

Whenever you decide on an important step in life, do you take time to pray and discern the will of God about it?

Amen