

Fr. Romeo Evangelista Homily
Weekday Mass – Wednesday, January 6, 2021
Cycle B

During this pandemic we all know that this not only affects people physically, but more so on the emotional level....

Many friends have texted me during this time, telling me that the silence, boredom, and monotony, coupled with fear and anxiety, brought them to the brink of depression and collapse. But I remember a clip shown on the evening news that showed different ways people spent their quarantine period. One middle-aged woman caught my attention. She was into dress-making, but with the demand down during the lockdown, she decided to make improvised face masks and gave them to people for free. She said, “My fears go away when I am able to help others.”

That woman may not know it but she did something scriptural. In today’s First Reading, John, known as the beloved disciple, declares, “There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear.” By thinking of how she could still love in moments of crisis, fear and anxiety had no place in her heart and mind.

When we allow fear to overtake us, we are paralyzed. Fear commands us to meditate on awful things to come. Love, on the other hand, draws us away from our self-preoccupation and channels our energies to more creative activities, as well as big and small acts of service.

In the Gospel, the Apostles were terrified when they saw Jesus walking on the water. They thought they saw a ghost. Immediately, Jesus admonished them, “Take courage. It is I. Do not be afraid.” Fear is not God’s plan for us. It is love. As it is said “creativity may help you go through a crisis. But love makes you grow through a crisis.”

Amen