

Fr. Romeo Evangelista Homily  
Weekday Mass – Wednesday, March 17, 2021  
Cycle B

Sabbath is very sacred for the Jews. During the Sabbath no one lifts a finger to work, for scripture says, “On the seventh day, God completed the work he had been doing; he rested on the seventh day from all the work he had undertaken. God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work he had done in creation.

No wonder the Jews were so critical of Jesus when they saw Him break the Sabbath. They were so triggered when they saw Jesus healing on the Sabbath and asking the recipient of the miracle to “rise, take up your mat, and walk. How He tells them that He, like the Father, is at work.

Who works on the Sabbath? Even if God rested on the Sabbath, the Jews acknowledge that He really does not stop working even on the Sabbath. They believed that creation has never ceased. Nature does not stop moving – the sun and the heavenly bodies continue to shine. Life is created, for babies continue to be born, and judgment happens as men and women die also on the Sabbath. Yes, God is at work – always. And now, here comes Jesus, healing on the Sabbath and proclaiming that like the Father, who is at work until now, so He is also at work. It is one way of saying that He is the Son of the Father, that He too, is God. His words infuriated the Jews and, thus, they wanted to kill Him.

These words of Jesus were a consoling assurance that even if we are called to rest, He and the Father continue their saving work for us. As Christians we need to allow God to continually work in us. And take time to rest and let God do His work and what He wills for all of us.

Amen