

Fr. Romeo Evangelista Homily  
Weekday Mass – Wednesday, March 24, 2021  
Cycle B

“The truth will set you free” was the scripture passage chosen for the 52<sup>nd</sup> World Day of Communications in 2018. It took the theme “Fake News and Journalism for Peace”. Fake news is a term that we hear in our times, one that has been coined recently, not because it did not exist in the past but because it has become so common. In his message, Pope Francis defined fake news as “the spreading of disinformation online or in the traditional media”, one that is “based on nonexistent or distorted data meant to deceive and manipulate the reader”.

In the working paper for the Synod on Young People, the Faith, and Vocational Discernment, the subject of fake news was also tackled. It was described as the uncontrollable spreading of fake information. There is growing difficulty in distinguishing it from real news. With the rise of fake news, truth and reason lose their power. Because of this, we seem to have entered into a “post-truth” era, for in the world of “social networks and digital media”, there is no hierarchy of truth. This is a sad reality. For many people, truth is no longer objective, not anymore the conformity of the mind with reality. It is no longer  $2+2=4$ , but whatever the person wants it to be, what he or she feels it to be.

In the Gospel, Jesus says, “If you remain in my word, you will truly be my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free”. The antidote for fake news, or falsehood, or post-truth is the Word of Jesus, for He is trustworthy. The truth is, thus, based on a relationship – we discover truth when we experience it from God. With our adherence to the truth, we take a stand against fake news and we have nothing to fear. Mark Twain was right in saying, “If you tell the truth, you don’t have to remember anything”.

Amen