

A Short Teaching on the Temple Cleansing
by Deacon Gerry Palermo

Greetings on this Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome

Readings: EZ 47:1-2, 8-9, 12; PS 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; 1 COR 3:9C-11, 16-17; JN 2:13-22

The cleansing of the Temple is attested to in all four Gospels.

The synoptic Gospels have Jesus describing the use of the Temple as a den for thieves (robbers) and in the Gospel of John – as a market place for purchase and a place to pay the Temple Tax.

Jesus instead desires the Temple to be the House of God, a place for prayer and teaching.

The Temple is you.

It is you - Jesus is fighting for your life.

The Temple cleansing is a call to conversion and an answer to the Temple prayer.

Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up. Jn 2:19b.

Zeal for thy house will consume me (οἶκος – house - by implication, family). Ps 69:10.

What Jesus is rejecting, pushing out, is the misuse of the Temple-Person. How badly misused?

Psalms 69 (which John is recalling)... Save me, God, I have sunk into the mire of the deep... overwhelmed... God, you know my folly... my faults are not hidden from you... let those who wait for you, Lord, not me shamed through me... let those who seek you, God, not be disgraced through me...

What should we be instead? Ah, a source of living water. Where those we live with and work with and share community with ... are like trees which bear fresh fruit and their leaves for medicine. That is we bring the Goodness of the Lord to the world.

God is both the Temple and the life of the Temple. He asks you to be Temple too... a life giving temple which has its source and summit in the one who was raised from the dead. Jn 2:22.

Peace be with you.

Deacon Gerry