

Homily  
Memorial of Saint Albert the Great  
Wednesday of the 32<sup>nd</sup> week in OT  
November 15, 2023

In high school or college, we all took reading classes, writing classes, math classes, science classes. Some of us went on to further our studies in one or more of these classes. Some of us may have even specialized in one or more of these classes, such as French romance literature or actuarial science or neurology.

St Albert the Great, or Albertus Magnus as he was known, was knowledgeable in many varied fields; he is the patron of scientists, medical technicians, natural sciences, philosophers, schoolchildren, and theology students. He studied Aristotelian Philosophy. St. Thomas Aquinas was one of his students. He was not only a philosopher and theologian, he was a walking encyclopedia who seemed to have mastered all subjects. The compilation of his writings fills thirty-nine encyclopedic volumes and covers a multitude of topics, including logic, metaphysics, rhetoric, theology, botany, geography, astronomy, astrology, mineralogy, alchemy, zoology, physiology, phrenology, justice, law, politics, economics, friendship, and love. Really? Can you say, “Know it all!” And he would say that all these subjects, because God created everything and all these come from God, that they all stem from theology, the study of the nature of God. He was a bishop and a Doctor of the Church in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. His body was found incorrupt three years after his death and centuries later, only his bones remained.

We all come from God; we all are here because God loves us; God created us in His image; we are a reflection of God. In everything we are, in all that we love, in all that we do, in all that makes us unique, we owe that to God. And God loves that about us. He wants us to be happy; and we are happiest when we do what we are good at, when we do what we love, in alignment with God’s Will.

Albertus Magnus did all that; he did what he loved and we all benefit from that. This is God’s Will.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus uses the example of casting a wide net and catching a wide variety of fish. The catch would include good fish and bad fish, those fish they could eat and those fish they couldn’t eat. This was something everyone of His audience would understand; they all either fished or knew someone who fished. And they all ate fish and knew which fish they couldn’t eat.

Jesus tells the crowds that the Kingdom of heaven is like this; that God catches everyone, and those who are bad, who are wicked, will be discarded, thrown away, burned in the fiery furnace. The righteous will be received into the glory of heaven. But who are the righteous?

Just as Albertus Magnus embraced all that God had given him, we are to embrace all that God has given us. We are to be the best that we can be given who we are and what we are made of, a reflection of God, who is love, who is good. We are to embrace these gifts to make us happy, benefit our brothers and sisters, and glorify God. It’s what God wants; go and be you.