

**Homily for Nov. 19, 2021**  
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Our readings today focus on the Temple – the first communal effort to rebuild and rededicate what had been destroyed. In the Gospel, we see Jesus driving out those who were desecrating the Temple by turning it into a venue of commerce. What is it that makes something or someone sacred?

Webster defines sacred:  
as consecrated to a god,  
holy,  
hallowed,  
inviolable.

In our present culture, there is very little that is treated as set apart or sacred. Sometimes, it appears that the only thing that is sacred is power/power over.

Jesus speaks of the temple of His Body. Paul insists that, “You are the temple of God and the Spirit of God lives within you.” In the fifteenth century, Ignatius of Loyola exhorted us to “find God in all things.” In our time, through scientific exploration, we are growing in our consciousness that we are connected in the whole Web of Life.

So a question might be – Do I consider myself as sacred? Am I aware in the words of Teresa of Avila, that Christ has no body now but mine? Do I think of/ treat myself as holy? Scripture says, “Be still and know that I am God.” Teresa of Avila tells us, “Settle yourself in solitude and you will come upon God in yourself.” Julian of Norwich reminds us, “We are in God and God whom we do not see is in us.”

Do I/we think of other persons as inviolable, hallowed? Do I/we treat them in a manner that manifests their sacredness?

As we reflect on our “fractured world” what is it calling us to do? Jesus invites us to build a dwelling place for God in our world and in the Universe. Martin Luther King and John Lewis challenge us to become a “beloved community,” a sacred space in our world. As we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King on Sunday, what must be torn down or rebuilt to form the “beloved community” in the coming year?