

LISTEN



LENT 2022

1ST SUNDAY



“The Word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart.” (Rm 10.8)

Opening Music: *“Let me hear”* – J. Philip Newell

At the beginning of Lent, pray for the grace to listen deeply to the Word of God spoken in ourselves, in other people, in the world and in nature.

Listen to the word He will speak to you. God always speaks! He is the Word. To totally listen we must be silent, and silence is not easy, but: don't be afraid of silence, don't be afraid of listening to His words. His words are always LIFE, but they can be demanding. (Conference of Helen McLaughlin rscj 1985)

Jesus listens deeply...

Today's Gospel (Lc 4, 1-13) invites us to go out into the desert of silence, in order to listen.

From the Hebrew the word "desert" (midbar) can be translated as "the place from where someone speaks", "the place of conversation". An invitation to the desert is an invitation to enter a space where God can be heard.

Jesus is deeply sensitive to the Word of the Father. His trial in the desert can be seen as an intense experience of listening, as an effort to gain greater awareness of his life's mission.

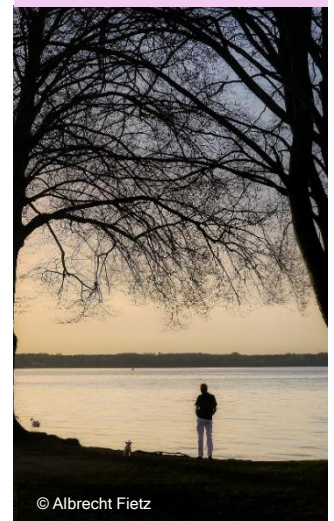
A word... Every word... In the beginning there was the Word.

Now there is another beginning...

In the beginning of public activity there was a Word for Jesus. Jesus learned something important about listening and its close connection with prayer in the desert. He learned that prayer begins with listening.

“When you talk, you are only repeating what you already know. But if you listen, you may learn something new.”

Dalai Lama



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He listened and felt discouraged.
He listened and was surprised.

Listening gave Him insight and self-discovery.
Listening made Him grateful and made Him feel weary.
Yet He always listened.

He listened to wheat fields and plain old fox holes.
He listened to faithful friends like Martha and less faithful ones like Judas.

He listened to the unwanted and the loved.

He listened to human needs and the signs of the times.

He listened to Himself and the Father.

He listened...

Listening requires receiving the message and allowing it to affect our lives. Such deep listening does not allow for hardness of heart or human coldness. Deep listening leads to compassion and to transformation.

Deep listening means starting a journey beyond the ears to the heart, beyond hearing to understanding and feeling.

How is your heart touched by Jesus who listens deeply?

What is in your heart at the beginning of Lent?

Listening to the world...

“What does God want of us and from us at this moment? How can we respond to the challenges of our world? These, and many others, are questions that do not go away. I am thinking of the time when Yahweh shared with Moses the secret of his Heart: “I have heard the cry of my people”. What cries of the people is He sharing with us?” (Helen McLaughlin rscj, Letter to The Society 1987)

“We desire to live compassion by coming together to listen deeply to the cries of humanity and the entire earth community.”

(Artisans of Hope, 2019)



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“God is here, hidden in life’s story, and it is in this concrete story where we discover the signs of God’s love and where we are sent to make it manifest... We need to make ourselves receptive to God’s life in us.” (“Life unfolding, offering the gift”, Guadalajara 2012)

In *Laudato Si’*, Pope Francis urges us to listen to “*the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.*”

What cries of humanity do you hear?

“As we hear and respond to the cry of the poor and of wounded earth, we see the effect of unbridled power, especially when it is driven by greed, domination, and callous indifference. (Artisans of Hope, 2019)

When you listen deeply to the world - take a moment to consider different areas of unjust structures, of abusing power and exploitation of Earth - what calls and invitations are awakened in you?

We continue to pray for peace and for all the people experiencing war, especially Ukraine.

How can you respond from the deep space inside you, created by deep experience of Encounter?

“Let me hear, what You will speak, when I turn to you in my heart.”

Joanna Mos rscj
Responsible for the Novitiate, Poland

