

Listen to Him!

The Eucharistic celebration like every other prayer is a dialogue. It is a dialogue in which God speaks to us through the words of the songs, prayers, and readings; and we speak to him through our prayerful responses. We do not gather in the Eucharist just to pour out our pains and worries to God. We gather also, to listen and know what God is telling us about our relationship with him and one another. The season of Lent calls us to evaluate the attention we pay in this experience of dialogue. We know that many things are going on in our lives that most times our minds get occupied with them even while in the Church for Eucharistic celebration. We should make effort to pay attention to different ways God speaks to us during the Mass.

The first reading is the story of God's encounter with Abraham- the father of our faith. Abraham built his faith in God through listening to him. He listened and obeyed even when it is most likely that he would not obey like in the case of using his only son Isaac as a sacrifice to God. Similarly, in the gospel, we read the story of the transfiguration. The transfiguration took place when Jesus and his disciples- Peter, John, and James were up in the mountain praying. Jesus' moment of prayer served as a special moment he dialogued with God. The appearance of Moses and Elijah, and the voice from the cloud confirmed his mission. The events overwhelmed his disciples and made them fully awake. Peter spoke that three tents be made, one for Moses, one for Elijah, and one for Jesus because he knew that if Jesus gets one, they are covered. While Peter was speaking, a cloud covered them, and a voice came from the cloud confirming the sonship of Jesus and inviting them to listen to him.

Lent is a special season when we call on God to transfigure us. God cannot transfigure us if do not listen to different ways he speaks to us. Abraham developed trust and faith in God because he was able to listen to him. We cannot develop a relationship with God if we do not listen to him, just like we can grow in relationship with someone if we don't listen to him or her. I remember a couple telling me that they had to file for divorce because they could not listen to each other. After hearing and listening to the word of God in the Mass and we do not allow the word we have shared to influence our day-to-day life then we cannot grow in our relationship with God.

In addition, if our final citizenship is in heaven as St. Paul tells us in the 2nd reading, then we must make effort to listen to words from heaven- the word of God. More still, in the case of Abraham and the disciples, God spoke to them in different ways and most times directly. In our case, God speaks also to us through the dictates of our well-formed consciences. Good consciences are formed and built in the word of God. God speaks also to us through one another, especially those who live very close to us. Let us ask the good Lord to open our hearts and mind to welcome his word and allow this word to transfigure us. Amen.