

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time – September 9, 2018

LEARNING TO LISTEN

To cure the deaf and mute man, Jesus uses a sacramental pedagogy. He takes him aside, touches him, prays for him, and speaks to him. How we need this miracle repeated today, that our ears may open to hear the Holy Spirit's inspirations! Our presence in society must transform it, or it is not really a presence. If our world is going badly, it is because there are still many Christians that refuse to see, hear, or speak.

1. The **deaf and mute man is cut-off, locked up in his loneliness.** He needs a brother who understands him and helps him to open himself to life's reality and relationships with others. Jesus is that brother. Only Christ can cure us of our miseries and give us light to walk along the straight paths. "You called me," we must say with Saint Augustine. "I called out and you have overcome my deafness. You shone bright and unclouded my blindness. You touched me, and I began to desire your peace".

What signs do we perform to show that the Kingdom of God is coming? We are God's sacrament for our brothers and sisters! Let us repeat Jesus' same actions by caring for the sick and marginalized. The works of mercy are signs of the Kingdom of God.

2. **Each day new miracles happen all around us.** They are palpable signs of the Messiah's presence. And we are the witnesses! Through sacramental signs internal miracles become apparent to us: the light of conversion that enlightens people so that they might live centered on the death and resurrection of Christ, thus acquiring new meaning for their human existence.

3. **Our lips speak from the abundance of the heart.** An Arab proverb says, "Open your mouth only if you're sure what you are about to say is more beautiful than silence." Therefore, if speaking to God is something magnificent, it is even more so when listening to him speaking to us in the midst of a silence infused with love.

Words are the means of communicating our intimacy to others; we cannot communicate a weak and petty intimacy, but rather a rich and enriching one that leads towards goodness and encourages action. In the Letter to the Romans, Saint Paul reveals the process that the transmission of faith follows. Faith enters through hearing, that is, as a consequence of the preaching of the Gospel. In so far as they bear the Word of God, our feeble human words are "living and active, sharper than a double-edged sword.

Brothers and Sisters: In Baptism we have received the vocation to be communicators of the Word of God. Have we already learned to hear it? Saint Thomas defines the apostolate as "handing on what we have contemplated in prayer." Let us not betray the contents of the message. We are the living sacrament of salvation through our word and testimony.

Father Blake Evans, Pastor



“Let the children come to me.”

Matthew 19:14

Religious Education begins on Sunday, September 16th. All young people must be in religious education for two years in a row before receiving a Sacrament. Registration is open after the 8am, 10am and 1pm Masses

Rest in peace

Mrs. Rafaela Evans was buried on Saturday morning Sept 8th in Florida. The Evans family is grateful for the many prayers, masses, and kind thoughts extended to us all during this difficult time. May the Lord reward you all.

- Father Evans

Happy Birthday

Blessed Mother! Sept. 8th is the Virgin Mary's birthday. Let us thank her for her constant intercession. 2018 Years of Jesus...2031 years of Mary!

Thought for the week: How can I make those who are considered "outsiders" feel more welcome in my faith community? In my own personal circles, where have I failed at being a welcoming person?

Letter from Cardinal Wuerl: ADW.org webpage has a letter from His Eminence addressed to all Priests. The lay faithful are encouraged to read it. Pope Francis met with Cardinal Wuerl last Thursday, His Holiness asked him to take a week of prayer and discernment and to then inform of his decision to remain as Archbishop or not; and to pray about what is best for the People of the Archdiocese. The Cardinal met all Priests on Labor Day, in a respectful, tearful, and candid meeting he expressed his sorrow and asked for forgiveness and prayer. We have no further information as of this printing. Let's pray hard and be united charitably and humbly in this difficult time.

Youth and Vocations: Remember to daily pray for all Catholic School/College students and our seminarians. Pray that they will listen to God to guide their vocations and be people of Virtue who live in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Mass Intentions for the Week



September 8 - 15, 2018

Sat. 9/8	8:00 am	Mount St. Mary Seminary (all alumni)
	5:30pm	+Winslow Vickerie
Sun. 9/9	8:00am	+Michael S. Kelly
	10:00am	Irene Jimenez (healing)
	1:00 pm	People of the Parish
Mon. 9/10	12:00	Sick homebound parishioners.
Tue 9/11	12:00	+9/11 victims
Wed. 9/12	12:00	+Anthony Peires
Thu. 9/13	12:00	Mount St. Mary Seminary Alumni (living & deceased)
Fri. 9/14	12:00	Ana Chuquin & Maura Pilco
Sat. 9/15	8:00 am	Nativity. All Employees
	5:30pm	Karen Woods

Please pray for the sick of our Parish:

*Alice R. Allen, *Amina Anderson-Pringle, *Ann Butler, *William Cammack, *Lukas Pastier, *Carmen Dolores Campos, *Carla Andrea Catacora, *Shawn Coleman, *William Corbel, *Maria Cruz, *Maurice & Flora Detiege, *Kevin Fagan, *Isel Fitzgerald, *Dion A. Fortune, *Linda Foster, *Charlie Gick, *John Green, Sr., *Janet Henery, *Blanca Hernandez, *Lawrence C. Hill, *Lee Hobbs, *Sydney Horge, *Francis Howard, *Elaine Hunt, *Helen Hurd, *Larry Ivy, *Irene Jimenez, *Geraldine Jones, *Charles Johnson, *Odile Kalla, *Michael Kelly, *Busara Keneddy, *Claude Kolthoff, *Betty Lawton, *Yavonna Lewis, *Sandra Lucas, *Eric Malcolm, *Edwin & Regina Mbanude, *Theresa McNair, *Edith Mebane, *Maria Magdalena Medrano, *Agnes Moore, *Gina Myers, *Iris Newman, *Sheryl Newman, *D. Cynthia Peters, *James Pope, *Margaret Pope, *Dorothy Richburg, *Auristela Roman, *Rosa Maria Santos, *Bonafacio Selayo, *Delores Sloan, *Adrian Smith, *Alice Smith, *Bernadette Smith, *Theresa Smith, *Louise Sweatt, *Suzie Thompson, *Emily Towles, *Dominic Valentine, *Dorothy Waring, *Paul Williams, *Florentina Zoretta

ATTENDANCE REPORT

9/2/18

Attendance: 410 souls

Offerings & Tithes: \$8,768

Spanish Mass: \$478

Utility fund: \$169

MOTHER OF AFRICA PILGRIMAGE

Sunday, September 16 from 2-4pm in the Upper Church at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Mass Principal Celebrant: Msgr. Eddie Tolentino, Pastor at St. Michael the Archangel. For further information, contact Sandra Coles Bell at 301-853-4469 or culturaldiversity@adw.org.

Youth Faith & Fun day

September 15, 2018

9 am – 3 pm

For young people to Senior in High School

Sign up in advance!

*fun, *games, *lessons, *lunch, *daily mass,
*mentor help from young peers

Our Lady of Bethesda center will run the program - 1 Priest, 1 Brother, 1 Lay Youth Missionary; and 6 High School volunteers

Chaperones and other helpers are welcome. Cost \$5 per person (for food/drinks and material expenses)



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OF COLUMBUS®**

Keane Council #353

"LIVING WITH YOUR BAGS PACKED!" Another three-part education presentation on estate planning and administration. The first presentation, Wills vs. Trusts, will be held on **Tuesday, September 18th**. The second covering Estate Planning and Charitable Giving will be held **Tuesday, October 16th**. The final presentation, on Incapacity Planning, will be on **Tuesday, November 20th**. All presentations will begin at 7pm and be held in the Lounge. Refreshments will be served.

Do you want to know more about becoming a Catholic? Contact the RICA Ministry at (202)-341-2707 or at mvleakesr@outlook.com

26th International Week of Prayer and Fasting unites with the Marians Fathers, Legion of Mary and Priests for Life, Sept 29 – Oct 7, 2018. Opening day, Saturday, September 29th at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception from 9 am – 4:30 pm. Registration is FREE, but please register online at www.iwopf.org