

REFLECTION

By **Amanda Haluga**, The Haitian Project Director of Charism and Missionary Program

LENT 2021

Second Sunday

“This is my Beloved Son. Listen to Him.” (Mark 9:7)

Though few in number, God’s words spoken in today’s Gospel are clear: “This is my Beloved Son. Listen to Him.” He gave us His Son, the Word Made Flesh, to fulfill the law and the prophets and lay down His very life for us. As we enter into this Lenten season, are we attentive to Jesus? Are we distracted or pulled away from truly listening to Him?

The first reading shows us the sacrifice Abraham was willing to make of his own beloved son for God. The second reading reminds us of God’s same sacrifice for us, not sparing His own Son but “handing him over for us all,” and that Jesus, now raised and at the Father’s right hand, “indeed intercedes for us.”

The Gospel, too, demonstrates the love of the Father for the Son. Having journeyed up the mountain, Peter, James, and John watched as Jesus was transfigured—His divinity shining in His earthly form—and then spoke with Moses and Elijah. After hearing the voice of God from the cloud, they were again alone with Jesus.

Jesus also remains with us. He speaks to us. We listen to Him in our personal prayer, in the silence of the heart. We listen to Him in Scripture and worship. And we listen to Him in our brothers and sisters. As we journey through this season of Lent, let us see and hear Jesus in those around us, that we may learn from Him and grow in love for our neighbor and for Him.

FOCUS: COMMUNITY

Following God’s command, we can seek to listen to Jesus by listening to the voices of others in our own community. In our missions, vocations, and daily lives, we are called to serve Jesus in our brothers and sisters, in the least among us, and in those in need. As we work through this time of challenge, grief, isolation, and division, let us commit to first recognizing Jesus in those we live with, work with, serve, and meet. Only then can we listen to others with greater patience and love, and better work to bring about justice, peace, and the Kingdom of Heaven here on earth.

PRAYER

Speak, Lord, your servant is listening. Help me to remain attentive to your voice. Help me to truly see and hear you in those around me, that I may grow closer to them and to you. Grant me patience when I feel that I cannot hear your voice. Grant me humility to listen with an open heart. Be with me as I walk with you these forty days of Lent and every day.

SERVICE SUGGESTION

It is easy to let the desire to share our thoughts or change someone’s mind prevent us from listening. While others speak, we may prepare a reply or story of our own. Relationships suffer when individuals feel unheard or misunderstood. This Lent, let us take time to set ourselves aside and truly listen. Mindfully work to hear and understand. Ask someone “How was your day?” and listen to the answer. Ask questions. See and hear the person you are with. By approaching conversations—simple or complicated—selflessly and patiently, we can connect rather than divide and love as God loves us.