

## Reflection Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> Week Lent 2023

To be consecrated to the Lord, as we are in baptism, *we must follow his ways, keep his statutes, his commandments, his ordinances, and listen to his voice.* Listening is a priority in Lent appearing time and again in our Lenten readings. As Moses suggests, listening concerns the way we live our lives with the spirit of God who wells within us. Whereas Moses offers incentives of greatness, Jesus' approach is different. He asks us to go further out of desire, not because we are asked to do so or for what we will receive in doing so.

### **Pope Francis**

Let us go towards the joy of the encounter with Christ! Let us put (the Lord) back at the centre and go forward with joy. God placed his Son into our arms because welcoming Jesus is essential, the central point of faith. Sometimes we risk becoming lost and dispersed in a thousand things, fixing ourselves on secondary aspects or immersing ourselves in things to do, but the centre of everything is Christ, to be welcomed as the Lord of our life. Ask for the grace of amazement at the wonders that God is doing in us, in a hidden way.

Embrace Jesus in adoration and ask for eyes that know how to see good and see God's ways. If we welcome Christ with open arms, we will also welcome others with trust and humility. Then conflicts do not escalate, distances do not divide and the temptation to abuse and hurt the dignity of anyone is extinguished. Let us open our arms to Christ and to those around us!

Let us place ourselves before the Lord, in adoration, and ask for eyes that know how to see the good and see the ways of God. The Lord will give them to us, if we ask for it!