

Homily 2nd Sunday Year B 2024

C.B. Moss wrote: *'We do not believe that God has added or ever will add anything to the revelation in his Son, Jesus. But we can now see many things in the revelation which could not be seen by those who first received it. Each Generation of Christians and each group of people to whom the Christian Gospel is preached makes its own contribution to the understanding of the riches of Jesus Christ.'*

This suggests that each of you can discover some new richness in the readings we hear each Sunday or whenever you engage with scripture. Today there are a group of people who introduce others to God and let God do the rest. In fact, that is all that any homily is able to do: **introduce you to God, to Jesus**. Eli in the first reading instructs Samuel to listen to the invitation God makes to him, an invitation that sets him on a new path.

In the Gospel, John the Baptist introduces two disciples to Jesus; Andrew introduces his brother Peter to Jesus who changes his name to Cephas meaning Rock on which Jesus will create the first Christian community which we now know as Church.

However, the voice of God does not always come as clearly as described in our readings. It may be that we overhear a conversation, be present at a conference or during prayer that we hear or read something that inspires us to take a new path, one we had never thought of before.

Richard Rohr offers this:

We should receive the words of God in a way that we can speak them to others tenderly and with lovingly. He suggests that *if something comes to you with grace and is able to pass through you and toward others with grace, then you can trust it to be the voice of God*. A holy man suggested that *"We must listen to what is supporting us. We must listen to what is encouraging us. We must listen to what is urging us. We must listen to what is alive in us."*

It can often take much courage and humility to trust the voice within to be the voice of God. We have been given the Holy Spirit to help and guide us, so invoke the Spirit of God for guidance.

The voice of God can be recognised as a positive flow and distinguishable from any negative resistance we find within ourselves. This can take a great deal of practice but it is important to start and gradually it will become clearer.

Note that *if a voice comes from accusation and leads to accusation, it is quite simply the voice of the "Accuser," which is the literal meaning of the biblical word "Satan."* Shaming, accusing, or blaming is simply not how God talks.

God is supremely nonviolent. God only cajoles, softens, and invites us into an always bigger field and it is always a unified, loving and caring field.

A minister and a lawyer arrived at the pearly gates. Saint Peter greeted both of them and gave them their rooms.

"Pastor, here are the keys to one of our nicest efficiency units. And for you, sir, (to the lawyer) the keys to the finest private suit we have."

"That's unfair!" cried the minister.

"Listen," Saint Peter said, *"ministers are a dime a dozen up here, but this is the first lawyer we've ever seen!!"*