

Next week we look forward to our Lenten mission speaker, Fr. Tim Anastos. You might know Fr. Anastos from his time as the Associate Pastor at Mary Seat of Wisdom. He is currently on assignment at the UIC St. John Paul II Newman Center doing very good work there as a chaplain. I had the benefit of recently completing the spiritual direction training program with him, he is a faithful and engaging priest. Fr. Tim will speak about encountering Jesus Christ more deeply in the Eucharist and in the quiet of Adoration. Come join us if you can on Monday, March 4th, 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium. Hors d'oeuvres will be served.

Please read the letter from Dr. Hillmann in this bulletin on our goal to raise money for financial aid to qualifying families for our school, the Trinity Tuition Assistance Fund (TTAF). We had about 20 students per year qualify for the former Illinois Tax Credit Scholarship, with a total of about \$125,000 of annual need. We are looking at finding a couple of larger donors who would be able to offer matching gifts to help incentivize others for this annual collection. We currently have raised over \$25,000 for next year already. Thank you for your generosity in supporting Catholic education for those that need some help.

Now to the 2nd Sunday of Lent, ***“He hardly knew what to say, they were so terrified”*** (Mk. 9:6). This was how Peter told St. Mark he reacted to witnessing Jesus being Transfigured before them after he offered to be a tent builder. Jesus was revealed in His Divine glory, shown talking with Moses and Elijah and fulfilling God’s promises, but Peter felt compelled to speak and not take it all in, presuming the good Lord would reveal more. Perhaps Peter wanted to say something to dim the mystery before him, to domesticate and bring it down to earth.

Had Peter waited he would have heard the Father speak from the cloud ***“This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased, listen to Him.”*** Jesus Himself was to explain further what this sign meant and that they would understand more after He had risen from the dead. We are an impatient lot we humans, and we often feel the need to speak when listening would be better for us. Part of the discipline of Lent, is trying to discipline our senses, including our speech so that we can try to prioritize not just listening to others, but hearing the voice of the Lord guiding us in our daily lives.

One benefit of not talking as much as we tend to is that we might appear less foolish, as Peter did, as the saying goes “Better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak and to remove all doubt.” But we ought not to care too much what others think of us, especially if there is a need to speak a necessary but uncomfortable truth. Wise people are not always silent, but they know when to be.

St. Alphonsus Ligouri has powerful reflections on the importance of the practice of silence: *“It is hard to find a truly holy person who talks much. But they who have the spirit of prayer love silence, which has deservedly been called a guardian of innocence, a shield against temptations and a fruitful source of prayer. Silence promotes recollection and awakens good thoughts in the heart.”*

People often try to fill the quiet time in their life with noise and distraction, perhaps out of fear of being or feeling alone. But we are not alone.

Be still before the LORD; wait for Him” (Ps. 37:7).

God bless,

Fr. Mike

“THIS IS MY BELOVED SON. LISTEN TO HIM.” - MK 9:7

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT