



## Second Sunday of Lent

# Listening

Faith, which is “personal adherence to the revelation of God’s gratuitous and ‘passionate’ love for us” (Benedict XVI, *Message for Lent* 2013), begins and unfolds in an attitude of *shema*, that is, listening (cf. Rm. 10:17). Listening grafts us onto God. The more we make the effort to listen to him, the more we realize how much we need to grow in experiencing his love. Because of this, we cannot disregard the Father’s heartfelt invitation, which echoes in today’s Liturgy: “This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him!” (Lk. 9:35)

### LENTEN ITINERARY 2013

#### Signs of Faith

##### 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday

###### Adoration

«Worship the Lord your God and serve only him.»

(Lk. 4:8)

##### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday

###### Listening

«This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him.»

(Lk. 9:35)

##### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday

###### Conversion

«Unless you repent, you will all perish as they did.»

(Lk. 13:3)

##### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday

###### Welcome

«Your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.»

(Lk. 15:32)

##### 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday

###### Newness of Life

«Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.»

(Jn. 8:11)

But how can we learn to listen to Christ? And what is the effect of this listening? We learn to listen to him by cultivating an attitude of *humility*, which enables us to silence our needs and opinions so as to embrace the divine will. A sure fruit of listening to God is attention to one’s neighbor, manifested through a service of charity in truth. If we listen to God, we will necessarily listen to the people around us, responding to their needs first of all through evangelization, which is the first and foremost expression of charity.

In our time, characterized by media-driven communications and social networking, people hunger to be heard. Communications today are often empty. Instead of being shared, life is often debased. In the light of this, it is urgent to return to an attitude of listening that infuses love and hope in those who receive it and reinforces every relationship through mutual sharing. We must respond to the solitude of post-modern human beings by doing them the charitable service of listening to them. Each day dedicated to listening to God’s beloved Son, the Living Word, prepares us to carry out this service of charity in truth toward humanity, which desperately needs to experience God’s liberating love. Listening to his beloved Son transforms the message we proclaim into a genuine communication of faith—a “heart to heart dialogue” with every person we encounter.

## Prayer

God our Father,  
who in Christ, your only Son,  
your Chosen One,  
have revealed your liberating  
and consoling Love,  
accept the offering of our life.

God of the Covenant,  
we yearn to listen attentively  
to your Word and faithfully  
proclaim your kingdom,  
but without your Spirit we  
can do nothing,  
give nothing, communicate  
nothing about you.

Give us your Spirit of love.  
Ask him to make us humble  
and ready to listen to you  
so as to be lovingly attentive  
to the people around us  
and offer them hope and joy.



In the school of the Virgin Mary,  
the woman of listening and Mother of  
beautiful Love,  
we offer you our entire being,  
asking that, transfigured by your love,  
we might become your attentive listeners  
and loyal heralds. Amen.

Fr. Renato D’Auria