

Peace is...hearing and speaking God's Truth

Isaiah 35: 4 “...**Say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not!
Here is your God...he comes to save you.**”

James 2: 1 “...**show no partiality as you adhere to the faith in our glorious Lord
Jesus Christ.**”

Mark 7: 37 “...**He makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.**”

Reflection:

We have eyes and ears to see and hear, but do we actually hear the Word of God and then carry it out in our actions?

Where do we hear God's Truth? Not only do we hear it in God's Word at Mass, but we have our Pope's and Bishop's words at our disposal. We can find Papal news on the internet at www.vatican.va, where we can read his new encyclical, "Charity in Truth." Relevant Radio (1270 AM) relays the teachings of the Church from various sources. The NWI Catholic prints Bishop Melczek's weekly column, as well as news about Pope Benedict XVI. We must be informed about what the church is saying, especially as it relates to how we deal with the people and events of our lives.

As we begin the beautiful season of autumn, we are reminded of the diversity in nature, another place where God reveals Himself to us. Referring back to the readings today, and the diversity we encounter in our lives, let us consider how we welcome those around us. Do we show preferential treatment to those who look like us? Are we judgmental of actions or styles that are unfamiliar or unlike our own? It is easy to judge people by their outward appearance, but it is difficult to take the time and effort to get to know people. God welcomes all, and so should we. We must consider how we can inspire others to be people of God by our actions.

What is our role in helping others to see and hear? How can we play a part in God's healing grace? God never abandons us. How do we comfort and show support to those in need? In this economic climate, how can we help others to build faith and know that God will always provide?

We must be willing to speak of God's love to others....family members, neighbors, co-workers, people we encounter in other situations in our daily life.

Do we show signs of deafness when we do not take time to listen to the Word of God? Do we show signs of muteness when we do not speak of God to others or offer thanksgiving to Him?

The LORD makes the deaf hear and the mute speak. Let us entrust ourselves to Him and allow ourselves to be His instruments of love and peace.

Action:

▪ Let us praise God for the beauty we find in nature, and share this joy with others.

Set aside time to listen to what the Church is saying about securing justice in our world today. Do something that will make a positive impact, no matter how small.

Take some time to get to know someone whom you may have pre-judged, because they appear to be different from you. Pray for them.

Speak of God's love to at least one person each day this week.

Let us pray,

“Open my ears, Lord, that I may hear and understand what you are speaking to me.

Open my mouth, Lord, that I may speak your Truth and your words of peace.

Help me to effect your justice in the world.” Amen.