

LISTEN FROM THE HEART

Pope Francis, Shepherd of Truth

Notable quotations from Pope Francis and official teachings
of the Roman Catholic Church

THE LORD'S CALL

The Lord explicitly calls the human person to a covenant of love, so that they can fully become what they are: the image and likeness of God in His capacity to listen, to welcome, to give space to others. Fundamentally, listening is a dimension of love.

“LISTEN WELL”

... Jesus calls His disciples to evaluate the quality of their listening. “Take heed then *how* you hear” (LK 8:18): this is what He exhorts them to do after recounting the parable of the sower, making it understood that it is not enough to listen, but that it is necessary to listen well.

OPEN HEARTS

It is only by paying attention to *whom* we listen, to *what* we listen, and to *how* we listen that we can grow in the art of communicating, the heart of which is not a theory or a technique, but the “openness of heart that makes closeness possible” (cf. Apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, 171)



INDISPENSABLE ELEMENT

Listening is ... the first indispensable ingredient of dialogue and good communication. Communication does not take place if listening has not taken place, and there is no good journalism without the ability to listen.

LISTENING AND DISCERNMENT

Listening to several voices, listening to each other, even in the Church, among brothers and sisters, allows us to exercise the art of discernment, which always appears as the ability to orient ourselves in a symphony of voices.

“GREAT NEED”

In the Church ... there is a great need to listen to and hear one another. It is the most precious and life-giving gift we can give one another.

DON'T FORGET

“Christians have forgotten that the ministry of listening has been committed to them by Him who is Himself the great listener and whose work they should share. We should listen with the ears of God that we may speak the word of God”. Thus, the Protestant theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer reminds us that the first service we owe to others in communion consists in listening to them. Whoever does not know how to listen to his brother or sister will soon no longer be able to listen to God either.

“MOST IMPORTANT”

The most important task in pastoral activity is the “apostolate of the ear” — to listen before speaking, as the Apostle James exhorts: “Let every man be quick to hear, slow to speak” (1:19). Freely giving some of our own time to listen to people is the first act of charity.

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Presentation Ministries

3230 McHenry, Cincinnati, Ohio 45211

www.presentationministries.com

(513) 662-5378 orders@presentationministries.com