



Pastoral Aid on Listening and Civil Dialogue

Use this pastoral aid on the 3rd Sunday of Easter, April 26th, 2020, or any time the themes of listening, witness, or dialogue come up in the readings.

Introduction:

Can you think of a time when you've felt really listened to? Not just heard, but someone sat with you and listened carefully to what you had to say? How different that can be from our everyday experience! Jesus and the disciples on the road to Emmaus show us a great example of how to show love through deep and thoughtful listening and sharing. As Catholics, being unafraid to listen carefully to our neighbors is a way we show compassion and love.

Readings and Reflections:

[First Reading: Acts 2:14, 22-33](#)

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raise his voice, and proclaimed: "You who are Jews, indeed all of you staying in Jerusalem. Let this be known to you and listen to my words. You who are Israelites, hear these words. Jesus the Nazorean was a man commended to you by God with mighty deeds, wonders, and signs, which God worked through him in your midst, as you yourselves know. This man, delivered up by the set plan and foreknowledge of God, you killed, using lawless men to crucify him. But God raised him up, releasing him from the throes of death, because it was impossible for him to be held by it. For David says of him:

'I saw the Lord ever before me, with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed. Therefore my heart has been glad and my tongue has exulted; my flesh, too, will dwell in hope, because you will not abandon my soul to the netherworld, nor will you suffer your holy one to see corruption. You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.'

My brothers, one can confidently say to you about the patriarch David that he died and was buried, and his tomb is in our midst to this day. But since he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants upon his throne, he foresaw and spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that neither was he abandoned to the netherworld nor did his flesh see corruption. God raised this Jesus; of this we are all witnesses. Exalted at the right hand of God, he received the promise of the holy Spirit from the Father and poured it forth, as you (both) see and hear.