

**The Art of Accompaniment.** “The Church will have to initiate everyone – priests, religious and laity – into this “art of accompaniment” which teaches us to remove our sandals before the sacred ground of the other.

**Tuesday January 17 2023 - Listening to God and the Other** “There is in the human heart The boundless desire to be heard.”

**Checking in...**

*Listening with the ear of the heart*

**Listening in the womb** at 18 weeks - one of our first sensations of life is the inner sound of our own and our mother’s heartbeat. Hearing puts us on the map.

**book a day.. a book a week...a book a month.. a book a year.**

**Challenges to Listening**

**Rootless** The modern world teaches us to “fly solo,” over land, time, flesh and place – to be rootless.

**Identity Theft** - But spiritual life, too, has its “passwords”: there are words that touch the heart because they refer to what we are most sensitive to.

**Narcissism** - **online world** were able to select and delete so much of what we find difficult or distasteful or disagreeable.

**False Gods** Populism – distorted and liberalism disconnected

**Misconceptions and Distortion** Listening and hearing are synonymous - Listening competency develops naturally - Listening is dependant on intelligence -

**Consequence** - fragmentation

**So if listening is so NB how do we start.. where does it begin.. Listening favoured by God** listening is about openness risk teachableness relationships patience.

**Listen to Yourself** - we do not know what we really want **capacity to stop, to “deactivate the autopilot”, to acquire awareness of our way of acting, of the feelings that dwell within us, of the recurrent thoughts that condition us, and often unconsciously**

**Listening therapy** *Don’t say: ‘I have the solution for you’. Give them strength by your listening, that medicine which sadly is being forgotten: ‘the therapy of listening.’*

**The Risk of Closeness-** a parable about communication" because "those who communicate, in effect, become neighbors."

**Listening is sacrificial** - "martyrdom of patience" *"Each of us can learn something from others. No one is useless and no one is expendable."*

**Listening with the third ear..** intuition beyond their words and beyond their silences beneath their silences you can sometimes sense the other person whispering their truth to us..

**Listening to one another in the Church** - Francis said, "Let us ask: In the church, are we good at listening? How good is the hearing of our heart?"

**The Why of listening** "True wisdom demands an encounter with reality."

**Dialogue** - God, in God's deepest reality, is dialogue. The church must work to cultivate a "culture of encounter", to be "a place of mercy freely given."

**The obstacle to dialogue** - Pope Francis - the real sin of the tower of babel.. we often "talk past one another".

**True dialogue demands from us the conviction as social beings, of our individual incompleteness-** dialogue becomes "submissive," allowing oneself to be touched by the oppression borne by others, and responsive to the authority of their experiences. The whole is greater than the parts even the sum of the parts.

**the Rhythm of Dialogue-** a dance balancing between the opposites of communication...

**mutual prophesying** - not necessarily aimed at converting one another, but it does articulate one's belief in a clear, loving, and direct way

**The Value of Conflict fashioning a new polyhedron** - Let us not forget that "differences are creative; they create tension and in the resolution of tension lies humanity's progress. Life, for all its confrontations, is the art of encounter".