

Twenty Third Sunday of the year

We can all think of people who have guided our lives in one way or another, so that we can become all that God is calling us to be. We cannot really be all that God wants us to be without the support and the help of others. We all know that no one is self-sufficient.

In this Gospel reading, a deaf and dumb man is brought to Jesus by others. There were obviously people in this man's community who were taking care of him, and they took him to someone they believed could help to him, and they led him to a place, to a person, that he could not have reached by himself. That kind of scene is repeated more than once in the Gospels.

Another example is the passage where a paralyzed man was brought into the presence of Jesus by a group of his friends, even though it meant that they had to create a hole in the roof of the house where Jesus was staying. They took him to a place where he could never reach by his own efforts.

Those Gospel passages are repeated in the lives of people today. There many who need our support and assistance to be taken to their healing places and person in our communities! On the other side, there are many who take their time to take care of sick people and elderlies of our communities like those people of the time of Jesus did. They become the hands and legs, the eyes and ears of those who are seriously disabled, and in this way, they become the healing hand of Jesus to those people in need. If we put aside all kind of selfishness, we can realize that we all have that capacity to make life better and possible for our brothers and sisters in need.

The Gospel reading this morning reminds us that we need others to help us to become the person God desires us to be. We need compassionate and concerned people to take us to Jesus to bring to fulfilment the God's desire to work through us in creative ways so that the lives of others become better day by day, and we can all help each other to attain what Paul in one of his letters refers to as the glorious freedom of the children of God. (Free from people's burden).

In today's Gospel reading, the man that people brought to Jesus was both deaf and had an impediment in his speech. It was only when his ears were opened by Jesus that he began to speak clearly. The healing of his deafness was previous to the healing of his speech impediment. This is a reminder to us that our ability to speak is dependent on our capacity to hear, to listen (2 years but one mouth). Hearing comes before speaking. This is true in our daily dealings with others. Our capacity to hear people, to really listen to them, can be more important that anything we might say to them, or do for them (People need our attentive ear, our time to listen to what they tell us). That act of listening can be powerfully life-giving in its own right, even before we say or do anything on their behalf. When people are listened to in a non-judgmental way, they can begin to come alive in new ways.

In the light of today' readings, we might pray this Sunday for the grace to discern the ways in which the Lord may be calling each of us to be channels of his creative power in our world today.