

Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Lenten Mission 2017
Discernment in Everyday Life
Rev. Victor Ingalls, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Mobile
Talk 2: Hearing God Speak through Others

Opening Song: Send Us Your Spirit

Opening Story—Hearing God Speak at the Snow Biz Stand

- *New, personal insight in to the way that God is and the way he desires to relate to us
- *Come over here boy! And give your Deddy a big BEAR HUG!

First Consideration: Why not always just speak directly to us in prayer?

Honestly, I don't really know. But here are a couple reasons I came up with—

- *Getting a handwritten letter, hand delivered by a mutual friend—is exciting
- *Think Middle School or High School—and an emissary comes to you to tell you that that girl across the room likes you—its intoxicating.
 - ***If it always stayed that level, would be odd, be all in all...it makes you realize that you are someone Special...of Importance...and perhaps that is why God uses others to pass his messages onto us

Two Main Ways that God Speaks to us Through Other People in Our Lives:

I. God Speaks a Message to us through Another Person

- *This could be through an Angel or a Human

Angels: comes from Greek word “angelos” meaning “messenger”

*Curious that God has created millions of spiritual people to deliver his messages when he could just speak directly to us

- **Archangels*—those chosen to carry really important messages
 - *Archangel Gabriel—“God’s strength”
 - *Archangel Michael—“Who is like God?”
 - *Archangel Rafael—“God heals”

**Guardian Angels*

CCC 336: From its beginning until death, human life is surrounded by their watchful care and intercession.²⁰²

"Beside each believer stands an angel as protector and shepherd leading him to life."²⁰³ Already here on earth the Christian life shares by faith in the blessed company of angels and men united in God.

(God to Moses) See, I am sending an angel before you, to guard you on the way and bring you to the place I have prepared. Be attentive to him and heed his voice. Do not rebel against him, for he will not forgive your sin. My authority resides in him. If you heed his voice and carry out all I tell you, I will be an enemy to your enemies and a foe to your foes. (Ex 23:20-22)

(Jesus) See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father. (Mt.18:10)

*St. Padre Pio story

Humans: Can speak to us through anybody—all things and people he has created are at his disposal—>

Romans 8:28—We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

Numbers 22:21-39—If God can use a guy’s donkey to speak his word...surely can use an ass like you and me too!

People to pay close attention to as special vessels of God’s voice/guidance/direction

(1) *Parents:* They have memories about you that you don’t have!

- *Help kids discover their gifts —> then how to share those out of love for God and neighbor
- *Book of Proverbs: Written by King Solomon to bestow his wisdom to his children

*1:8-9—*Hear, my son, your father’s instruction, and reject not your mother’s teaching; A graceful diadem will they be for your head;a pendant for your neck.*

*Luke 2:51-52 *He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced [in] wisdom and age and favor before God and man.*

*If it’s good enough direction for Jesus than for us too!!!

*Father Victor Ex: Telling his parents about his call to priesthood—Yea we already knew!

(2) *Grandparents*: Special wisdom there. They have memories about you AND your parents that neither of you have.

*Ex: Book of Sirach—Wisdom passed down to author from his grandfather Ben Sira. Grandson translates into Greek

(3) *Good Friends/Siblings*:

*Sirach 6:15-17: Faithful friends are a sturdy shelter; whoever finds one finds a treasure.

*Brothers—> Apostles —> Saints: Andrew & Peter—John:1:40-42

“We have Found the Messiah”—Presents to Jesus—> Jesus makes him Pope!

*Fr. Victor Example: His sister discovering her mission through a lunch convo

(4) *People Holier Than You* (Priests, Mentors, Holy People): Close Friends with God. Close to him, his logic, his thinking, his inspirations and his plans

***Ven. Solanus Casey**: Doorkeeper turned Saint

Solanus Casey: The Official Account of a Virtuous American Life by Michael Casey, OFM Cap

Thank God Ahead of Time by Michael Crosby, OFM Cap

*One ear listening to the person, one ear listening to God

* “*Thank God Ahead of Time*” —his secret...kind of like backing God, your best friend, into a corner

* “*God condescends to use our powers if we don't spoil His plans with ours.*”

*Fr. Victor Example: Priest preaching at Mass—felt he was talking right at him

II. God Invites us to Recognize His Presence in Another Person and Respond in Love

Love God & Love Neighbor = All of Scripture in a nutshell: Duet. 6:4-5 & Mark 12:30-31

Something about these two things—makes them inseparable

1 John 4:20-21—*If anyone says, “I love God,” but hates his brother, he is a liar; for whoever does not love a brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. This is the commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother*

*St. Mother Theresa: Hears God speak directly in beginning. But then for 40 years only experiences the consolation of hearing God's voice/being touched by him through her care of the poor.

*I THIRST. Heard Jesus say this to her from the cross. Heard him repeat it to her from within each poor person

*St. Martin de Tours: The poor man to whom he offers his cape turns out to be Christ

*USCCB Catholic Relief Service Slogan (Second Collection from this past Sunday): #JesusInDisguise

*St. Vincent de Paul—He would rather be taken advantage of 1000 times by the poor if meant that at least once he had encountered and cared for Christ (Try to be prudent but keep this in mind)

*Heart's Home Spirituality: Standing in Solidarity with Mary at the foot of the Cross with all of those who are Crucified today in our midst—so many because of Loneliness

*Father Victor Example: Going to Adoration Chapel with his Mom on Christmas Day

*Mother Theresa's 5 Finger Gospel—“You Did It To Me”

Matthew 25:31-46 Parable of the Sheep

And the king will say to them in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.’

Closing Song: O God, You Search Me

Closing Prayer: Excerpt from *St. Patrick's Breastplate*

Please repeat after me:

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.