**16th Sunday Homily. Cycle C. 2025**

**Hospitality is love in action**. That was the theme of last Sundays’ Gospel portraying the story of “**Good Samaritan**”. It is a concrete, practical and beautiful way of loving a stranger. Hospitality shown to a stranger is pure, selfless love; an expression of the goodness of the heart. But true hospitality is not possible without religious conviction.

In the **First Reading today, we see Abraham offering hosp**itality to visitors who were strangers to him. He runs out to meet them and in a typical oriental fashion gives them a warm, respectful welcome. He asks his wife to prepare a meal for their unexpected visitors. His kindness and hospitality are abundantly rewarded.

**Todays’ Gospel is focused on Contemplation in action**. **P**resenting **Martha as a dynamo of** action and Ma**ry as a true listener to the word of God, today’s Gospel** invites us to serve others with Martha’s diligence after recharging our spiritual **batteries every day by prayer- listening to God as Mary did.** When Jesus went to visit their home both the sisters welcomed Jesus and Martha immediately began to work very hard to get dinner ready for Jesus. While Mary just sat at the feet of Jesus and listened to his teaching. Martha was very upset that her sister was not helping her, so she went and even complained to Jesus, “. Martha made a mistake of focusing on herself rather on Jesus. Mary, on the other hand, was totally focused upon Jesus and what he was teaching. Jesus also said that she had chosen the right thing.

Martha and Mary have traditionally been taken to represent two dimensions of institutional life in the church, active and contemplative. The Church needs both. **Martha and Mary also stand for two dimensions inside each one of us.** One is the desire to achieve, to work, to raise family, to make a difference and to accomplish something. That’s the **Martha dimension**. Martha has become a symbol of action-oriented, responsible people who get the job done. Most of us can identify with Martha. We all have Martha syndrome. We all are doers. Matter of fact this story is about doers and listeners.

**What we need is Mary’s solution to be a listener**, Jesus offers us the **best counselling**. Let us try to balance our lives with **prayer, entertainment and sleep**. What Martha did was good, but what Mary did was better. Better for you personally is the time spent with Jesus. You know there is always good, better and best in everything. We are very often satisfied with good. We have to strive to be better and best. Jesus did not say what Martha did was not good. He uses the comparative form of the adverb “good, better, best”. Both are good. One is better.

What is important-the “**one thing neces**sary” has not changed in our life’s’ time too. We still can and should find in Christ everything we need in the midst of our worries. While we might feel anxious about many things like Martha, God is here in our midst. When we feel as if there is not enough time in the day, God is here. When we feel as if we cannot live up to expectations, God is here. When we feel there is no hope for a solution, God is still here. He is with us, with a compassionate heart, attuned to our need. This realization is Contemplation in action.

Ours’ is a much tempting world and it pulls us in a thousand unwieldy directions losing control of our life like a leaf that the wind pushes anywhere. Being **quiet in presence of Christ** gives us a chance to pull all the separate strands of our life together. It is like stopping and looking at a road map to compare where we are without eternal destination.- a quality time with the Lord- a kind of spiritual oasis.

Active and busy we are, we have to find time every day to listen to God, to our spouse, kids and neighbors. Listening and quiet caring are essential for the success of married life, family life and the rearing of the children with love, affection and sense of discipline. Human life begins at home and it begins with listening. In the hustles and bustles of our life, let us try to become a **harmonious blend of Martha and Mary dimension** in our Christian life to bring us closer to Christ and closer to home- and finally to our eternal homeland.