

Homily Summary – 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

Overview:

This homily explores the balance between doing for God and being with God. Using the story of Martha and Mary, we're reminded that while service is good, the "one thing necessary" is time spent with Jesus. Our actions should overflow from prayer, not replace it. The homily challenges us to reevaluate our priorities and deepen our personal relationship with Christ.

Main Points:

- Doing vs. Being: Like Martha, we can be busy with good things, yet miss the better part — sitting with Jesus like Mary.
- Priorities Matter: Jesus invites us to put Him first, not just in words but in how we spend our time and attention.
- Overflow of Prayer: Our service should flow from a prayerful relationship, not replace it.
- Personal Encounters Matter: Like Abraham with the three visitors (Genesis 18), blessings follow when we give our attention and action to God.
- Interior Life First: Cardinal Van Thuan's prison experience teaches us that being with God can be more important than doing for Him.
- Presence Amid Responsibilities: God doesn't ask us to abandon duties, but to invite Him into them.
- Daily Discernment: Ask: Am I just checking off spiritual to-do's, or really encountering Christ?

Key Scripture References (NRSVCE):

- Luke 10:42 – "There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."
- Genesis 18:3,5 – "Do not pass by your servant... that you may refresh yourselves."
- Galatians 2:20 – "It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me." (Implied in the call to let Jesus be at the center.)

Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) References:

- CCC 2567 – God tirelessly calls each person to the mysterious encounter of prayer.
- CCC 2697 – Prayer is a vital necessity. If we do not allow the Spirit to lead us, we fall back into slavery.
- CCC 2708 – Meditation engages thought, imagination, emotion, and desire — a necessary discipline for Christian life.

Reflection Questions:

- Do I spend more time doing things for God than being with Him?
- What distracts me from making prayer a daily priority?
- How can I make my responsibilities more prayerful and Christ-centered?
- When was the last time I sat quietly in Jesus' presence and listened?
- Have I used the Sacrament of Reconciliation recently to return to the Lord's peace?

Rhyme Summary:

Martha worked hard, her heart full of stress, But Mary found peace in Christ who knows best.
We hustle and bustle with calendars tight, But Jesus tell us that his burden is light.
One thing truly needed, and this is to be, At Jesus' feet, peaceful and free.
In stillness we find what noise cannot give, A love that calm and peace as we live.

Reasons to come to Mass each weekend

Hebrews 10:24-25 - "And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Exodus 20:8 - "Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy."

Luke 22:19 - "Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'"

Acts 2:42 - "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

John 6:53-54 - "So Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day.'"

Psalms 122:1 - "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'"

Matthew 18:20 - "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Colossians 3:16 - "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God."

Additional resources to learn more about God and the Catholic faith

- Check out the resource list available on www.frmerkley.com
- Catholic Answers: <https://www.catholic.com/>
- Word on Fire: <https://www.wordonfire.org/>
- Formed: <https://formed.org/>
- The Coming Home Network: <https://chnetwork.org/>
- Catholic Exchange: <https://catholicexchange.com/>
- Dynamic Catholic: <https://dynamiccatholic.com/>
- The Augustine Institute: <https://augustineinstitute.org/>
- Ascension Press: <https://ascensionpress.com/>
- EWTN: <https://www.ewtn.com/>
- The Catholic Company: <https://www.catholiccompany.com/>
- Busted Halo: <https://bustedhalo.com/>
- CatholicCulture.org: <https://www.catholicculture.org/>
- The Thomistic Institute: <https://thomisticinstitute.org/>
- Ignatius Press: <https://www.ignatius.com/>
- Catholic Education Resource Center (CERC): <https://www.catholiceducation.org/>