

Fr. Romeo Evangelista Homily  
Weekday Mass – Wednesday, July 29, 2020  
Cycle A

We celebrate today the feast of Saint Martha. As we celebrate this feast, we are reminded in today's Gospel passage that the key to the Christian life is setting priorities: Jesus Christ first, and then everything else. The only way really to learn this lesson is to spend some time every day "sitting at the feet of Jesus, listening to Him speak". Every decision and choice we make, every act and deed we perform, in whatever aspect, affair, or concern of life, be it in our personal life or family or community – must be the fruit of our attentive listening to the Lord. It must be the result of our "sitting at Jesus' feet and listening to Him".

There are some practical applications of this. Before we make any choice or decision, be it with regard to what course to take, profession to pursue, or vocation to consider, be it a personal project, career undertaking, or business venture – pray, listen, and ask: "Lord, what's Your plan for me? What do You want me to do?"

Before we do simple things, like performing a task, going somewhere, talking to someone, saying something, dealing with people, buying or shopping – pray, listen, and ask: "Is this according to God's will".

Listening, praying, or discerning has to come before acting. I believe that Martha eventually learned to live by this basic spiritual principle. That is, to sit at Jesus' feet listening to Him.

Today's Gospel invites us to pause daily in prayer. Prayer is meant to be more than just "asking". Prayer is an invitation to come home, to be loved, to be nurtured, and to be refreshed. As Henri Nouwen put it, "Praying demands a relationship in which you allow the other to speak, allow him to touch the sensitive core of your being, and allow him to see what you would rather leave in darkness. Amen