

Fr. Romeo Evangelista Homily  
Sunday, March 2, 2025  
Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Cycle C

A man once said to the priest, “Your words have power because they come from a heart that is close to God.” “Remember, the mouth only speaks what fills the heart.” What we say is a reflection of who we are inside.

Today’s scripture readings center on this idea: Our speech reveals our inner nature. In the first reading, we hear this analogy: Just as a sieve separates husks from grain, so too does a person’s speech reveal what is within them. If a person is filled with kindness, their words will be kind. If their heart harbors resentment, their words will be bitter.

In the gospel reading, Jesus uses powerful images – a tree and its fruit, a blind guide leading another blind person, and a wooden beam in one’s own eye. The message is clear: our words and judgments toward others reveal the state of our hearts. A good tree bears good fruit, and a heart filled with God’s love produces words that bless and encourage others. But if we only see the faults of others, it is because we have not allowed God’s love to heal and transform us from within.

Words have power. They can heal or wound, build up or tear down. In today’s world – where insults, gossip, and harsh criticisms spread so easily Jesus calls us to something higher: to be people whose words reflect his

love. He reminds us, “The good person out of the good treasure of the heart produces good... for it is out of the abundance of the heart that the mouth speaks.”

Indeed, our speech reveals what fills our hearts. If we are consumed by anger, envy, or pride, our words will reflect that. But if we are rooted in Christ’s love, our words will be gracious, truthful, and life-giving. St. Paul urges us, “Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up...”

“So that your words may give grace to those who hear.” (Ephesians 4:29)

Imagine how different our homes, workplaces, and communities would be if we chose to speak with kindness rather than criticism, with understanding rather than judgment.

Jesus himself, even when insulted and betrayed, spoke words of mercy: “*Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.*” He shows us that love in speech is not just about avoiding harmful words – it is about choosing to bless, encourage, and bring healing.

How should we respond to the call to speak with love? I want to highlight three points...

1. Guarding our speech: Before speaking, ask: “Is what I am about to say true? *Is it necessary? Is it kind?*” *Guarding our speech is an act of wisdom and love.*

When we let Christ transform our hearts, our words will reflect his grace.

2. Seeing the good in others: Instead of focusing on the specks in our neighbor's eye, let us recognize the goodness in them. Instead of focusing on the faults of others, let us choose to recognize their goodness, encourage them, and speak words that bring life. May we be people who bring out the best in others by seeing them as God sees them – with love, mercy, and hope.

3. Being refined by God: Just as pottery is strengthened by fire, our character is formed in trials. If we can remain kind even in adversity, we reflect the heart of Christ, who prayed for his enemies even on the cross.

A wise teacher once summarized the Christian life this way: "God loves you. God loves me. God loves everybody. We have to love everybody too." If this truth fills our hearts, then it will shape our words.

May our speech always be a reflection of the love of God within us.