

Fr. Romeo Evangelista Homily
Sunday, July 20, 2025
16th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Cycle C

I asked a friend one day, *“How are you?”* He quickly replied, “I’m busy, Father. Crazy busy. So much to do.” I paused for a moment and gently said, *“I didn’t ask what you were doing... I asked how you were.”* He looked at me, *surprised... and a bit quiet.*

That short exchange stayed with me. Because it says something about us today:

We have started to confuse being busy with being alive. As if the more we do, the more we matter. But as one spiritual writer once said, “The tragedy of our time is not that we are too busy, but that we have forgotten how to be still before God.”

In other words: We have mastered the art of productivity... but forgotten the grace of presence. And maybe, just maybe, that is what the Lord is inviting us back to today.

In today’s gospel narrative, Jesus visits the home of Martha and Mary. Martha, the ever-industrious one, is busy preparing – probably doing what most of us would do when the Lord visits: serve food, clean up, impress. Meanwhile, Mary simply sits at Jesus’ feet, listening. Martha complains, and Jesus responds with love but clarity: “Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried

about many things. There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part.”

It is not laziness. Mary is not avoiding work. She is choosing what matters most: to be present, to be still, to listen. Jesus is not dismissing service. He is not anti-activity. He is revealing a spiritual order: First listen... then act. First receive... then give. First be filled... then pour out. Without that rhythm, all our good works become anxious, even self-centered. We serve not out of love, but out of pressure. We lead ministries but feel dry. We help others but secretly resent it. Because we are doing, but we are no longer being.

Do not be afraid to give your time to Christ. What we may need most today is not more information or activity, but more time with the Lord. Time to be still in his presence, to listen to his voice, and to let his quiet peace enter our hearts. This is called the “primacy of listening.” It is a spiritual posture that our noisy world is quickly forgetting. We are surrounded by voices and screens, but rarely silence and reflection. And when we lose silence, we lose our ability to hear God.

In today’s world, we often guard our time like a treasure. We spend it on work, entertainment, social media...but how often do we give time to Christ? God does not shout over the noise. He speaks softly... in the silence of a listening heart. But if our days are too full, and our minds too loud, we risk walking through life without hearing the One voice that truly matters.

The tragedy is not just that we are busy; it is that we are spiritually deaf. We have traded reflection for reaction, and silence for scrolling. But what if the peace we are searching for... is waiting in the quiet we have been avoiding?

To give time to Christ is not to lose time; it is to find ourselves. Because in stillness, he does not just speak... He restores. So today, make room... not just for another task... but for his voice. That is not wasted time... that is holy time.

Let us choose, like Mary, the better part: a heart that listens, a soul that rests, and a life centered in Christ.