

CATHOLIC EDUCATION:

**WE ARE
MANY,
WE ARE
ONE**



“We, who are many, are one body
in Christ, and individually we are
members, one of another.”

(Romans 12:5)

January Prayer Service

When we listen

*"Be quick to listen and slow to speak."
James 1:19*

CATHOLIC EDUCATION:
**WE ARE
MANY,
WE ARE
ONE**





“Here I Am, Lord”

Dan Schutte

<https://youtu.be/Z4ATBaI7ycY>

“Speak, O Lord”

Keith & Kristyn Getty

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GiXnb0ORTAU>

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

Kathleen Thomerson

https://youtu.be/sDzcZWa_YqQ





Opening Prayer

Prayer to Listen, Heal and Respond

Loving God, give us hearts that listen for your word.
Let us imitate the Good Samaritan, who does not turn away from suffering.

Help us listen.
May we listen to those who struggle daily for dignity.
Let us hear your voice in the stories of those on the margins.
Help us always see what binds us together as sisters and brothers.

Help us to heal.
May we be willing to stand in the place of others.
Let us be open to difference that we may arrive at understanding.
Help us to seek reconciliation that our world may reflect justice.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION:

**WE ARE
MANY,
WE ARE
ONE**





Help us respond.

May our faith move us to action in the public square.

Let us work with others of good will, finding solutions together.

Help us exercise political charity, seeking the common good and dignity for all.

Lord, give us the courage to trust in your hand guiding us.

Give us the courage to respond like the Good Samaritan,
setting aside divisions to attend to the needs of the other.

May we know and see your love present in our communities;
made real in the ways we love one another.

Amen. +

CATHOLIC EDUCATION:

**WE ARE
MANY,
WE ARE
ONE**



Gospel: Matthew 7:24-29

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!”

Now when Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



Questions for Personal Reflection



- How well are you hearing God's words and acting on them? Like the wise man or the foolish one?
- As Pope Francis appropriately pointed out, "We no longer engage in dialogue, but competing monologues." We may be good listeners, but are we truly hearing what is being said? How can we be more patient listeners; listening with both ears, being attentive and concentrating on the others' words rather than on our own responses?



Questions for Personal Reflection



- What can good listening look like? Good listening comes from a humble heart that sees others as more important than ourselves. (“Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves.” Philippians 2:3). Good listening focuses on the other first (“Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others.” Philippians 2:4).
- Amidst the constant voices that compete for our attention, we must be mindful of the small voice within us who is God. This voice is what guides our words and actions. In what ways can we quiet our surroundings so that we can hear more clearly the Voice of truth who guides us on our way?





Contemporary Writing

Listening With the Ear of the Heart: Pope Francis' Message for the World Day of Social Communications



Message of his Holiness Pope Francis for the 56th World Day of Social Communications: Listening With the Ear of the Heart



Questions for Guided Reflection

- *What kind of listener are you?*
- *What does the ministry of listening look like to you? What strategies can you implement to “listen with the ear of your heart”?*
- *As the Synodal process unfolds, how can we move forward as better listeners and welcome the voice of others?*
- *How can our listening bring us to a path of healing and reconciliation?*





Spoken Word

[Listen with the Ear of the Heart by Lillian Best](#)

<https://youtu.be/LRzDkmKFykl>

- Reflect on the following quotes from the video:
 - *Listening is the first indispensable ingredient of dialogue and good communication.*
 - *“Listen before speaking. As the apostle James exhorts, “Let every man be quick to hear, but slow to speak.”*

- What does ‘listening with the ear of the heart’ look like to you?

CATHOLIC EDUCATION:

**WE ARE
MANY,
WE ARE
ONE**





Closing Prayer

God of all time, we thank you for your presence within us.
May we always have the wisdom to take the time to truly listen to you,
to follow your Word and act upon it.
Help us to pay attention to the many ways you show yourself to us,
for we know you are with us at all times.
May we hear your voice today,
as it strengthens within each of us the desire to follow you and do your good work.
Teach us to listen to your presence within as you guide, protect, and lead us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus, Your Son.
Amen. +

CATHOLIC EDUCATION:

**WE ARE
MANY,
WE ARE
ONE**





Guided Closing Prayer: Psalm 46:10

Ask God to be with you in the silence and to speak to your heart.

“Be still, and know that I am God.”

Take a quiet moment and reflect:

- What is God saying to you?
- How does this scripture resonate with you?
- Tell God what is on your mind.



“The Summons”

John L. Bell

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GiXnb0ORTAU>

“Word of God Speak”

Mercy Me

<https://youtu.be/JTY-UKgLIxs>



CATHOLIC EDUCATION:

**WE ARE
MANY,**

**WE ARE
ONE**



“We, who are many, are one body
in Christ, and individually we are
members, one of another.”

(Romans 12:5)