

Listening To All of Life's Changes

One of our parishioners just attended her high school class reunion. It took place in her living room-in front of a computer screen-on Zoom.

The changes that have taken place since those high school days are amazing:

-The one voted "most likely to succeed" has just declared bankruptcy. His restaurant, like so many others, didn't survive Covid-19. And yet, despite the loss, David is enthusiastically planning the next chapter of his life,

-The "class clown" has been working as an accountant in Providence for over 20 years. His company wants to relocate him to Tennessee this coming spring. He says he doesn't know whether to laugh or cry.

-The "cutest, most popular couple" eventually married. They are now the proud parents of two autistic sons. They spend a lot of their free time passionately advocating for people living with autism.

Seeing your former classmates, years later, "in a new light," even on Zoom is fascinating. You see what they've become over the years. And you can't help but wonder:
And, what have I become?

When Jesus leads his disciples up a high mountain, they begin to see him in a new and different light. They start to understand that he is much more than just a wise teacher (Mark 9:2-10).

Jesus is the One leading them on a path through this world to the gates of the next. He's a heaven-sent voice inviting us to discover our calling and our destiny.

This journey is one that we and the entire church are summoned to make during the 40 days of Lent. And like that Zoom class reunion, it challenges us to ask, "What am I becoming?"

Am I more judgmental or more gentle?

Am I more patient? Or, am I becoming more frustrated with everything?

Am I more generous or more stingy?

Have I become more prayerful or more irreverent?

Are we more courageous or more fearful?

More compassionate or more indifferent?

More joyful or more negative?

More hopeful or more bleak?

The voice of Christ beckons us forward, allowing our minds and hearts, our attitudes and our priorities to be transformed by the light of his word. In this way we become the continuation of Christ's work in the world.

Did you know that over the course of a day, our ears are subjected to somewhere between 150,000 and 200,000 different noises and sounds? And out of those thousands of sounds, we only pay attention to a few hundred. Out of those few hundred, we actually only "listen" to a few dozen or less...

We pray during our Lenten springtime, that amidst the sea of noise that is our 21st century world, that we would attune our ears and hearts to the voice of Christ, the Father's beloved.

Wherever life takes us, may that voice embolden us to become all that we are called to be, until we enter that bright land of indestructible life and light.

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