

One of the persons we have come to love and admire deeply was a frail little woman, Mother Teresa. She would walk through the streets of Calcutta, India and see people lying on the sidewalks critically ill and dying. She listened to them and heard their sickness and loneliness. She would come with a couple of helpers and a van would pick these people up and bring them to her hospice. She and her sisters never asked them “Are you Catholic? What insurance do you carry?” She spent her life doing this and the whole world admired her, loved her. She was hearing something other people didn’t hear, and she was also speaking a word to them. It was as if Jesus had inserted His finger into her ears and she heard more deeply, the pain and loneliness of others. It was as if Jesus touched her tongue to speak a word of truth, a word of compassion even though she was a frail little woman.

Has Jesus opened your ears or maybe I should say have you allowed Jesus to open your ears? Has He touched your tongue so that you could speak a word of truth? Surely there are a lot of people speaking today about Biden and Trump, about Afghanistan and vaccinations and sexual abuse. But has Jesus opened your ears, your lips? I’m asking myself the same question.

We bear a heavy responsibility as Christians, as Catholics. I spoke to you last week about what’s on my mind; the violence in our neighborhood and the fear and discouragement and even the anger that has settled over us. What do you hear, what are you saying?

I love the words of St. James in today’s Second Reading; “Did not God choose those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the Kingdom that He promised to those who love Him?”

I just hope and pray that God will open our ears and touch our tongues so that we will hear His word; that we will speak His truth.

Always God speaks to us, touches us in the Eucharist!