

Communion Reflection
Twenty-fifth Week in Ordinary Time, Tuesday
22 September 2020
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Brothers and sisters, you and I are invited to be in a familial relationship with Jesus.

Whenever this Gospel comes up, as Catholics, we might become anxious because it can appear to be a blow to Mary. It might seem as though Jesus is rejecting His mother.

On the contrary, as a professor once pointed out, this text affirms Mary because she is also one who hears the word of God and acts on it.

So instead of reading this text in a way that might downplay the role of Mary, I propose that this Gospel is to be read as the criteria of the family of God. You and I are in the same place as those who surrounded Jesus: we are invited into the family of God. We are invited into a familial relationship with the Lord.

But notice that this does require action: we are called to hear the Word of God and then to act upon it. As Christians, if we are acting on the Word of Jesus Christ, we should be growing in our faith and making a difference in the world. The Word of God, our relationship with the Lord, has the power to change the world.

So what does this look like:

The first thing is pray. For a Christian to succeed in this life, we need prayer. To talk to God, but also to spend time in silence and contemplation listening to His Word and hearing His voice.

And we must also act: We are called to a life of loving service. Concretely this looks like serving God right now where we are. What things can we do that bring more love to the world? We can invite a friend to coffee. We can help out at local homeless shelters and soup kitchens. We can go to 40 Days for Life and pray for an end to abortion. Talk to our children about faith and challenges in their life. Invite another to an event at the parish.

All of these things, and those like them, will draw us closer to God and the building of His Kingdom here on earth. Our lives and actions will also serve as an invitation to others to join the family of God, to experience the way they are being called into the Christian family. So today we ask God that we may have heard His Word at this Mass and that we might go and put what we have heard into action today!

