

### **July 17, 2016 The Exclusive Interview Homily:**

Brothers and sisters, in the world of journalists, there is no more sought-after prize than an "exclusive interview". It is a reporter's dream. It represents a personal triumph, the exclusive right to interview a person who has generated a great deal of publicity and who may be internationally famous. It is as if a reporter had won the lottery. Let me cite just one instance of a journalistic coup. One of the greatest figures of the twentieth century was a Nobel Prize laureate, Alexander Solzhenitsyn. For many years, he endured great suffering and deprivation in a Soviet prison camp known as the Gulag. He came to America as a refugee in the seventies and settled in Cavendish, Vermont along with the members of his family. He was a notoriously private man who had little respect for the secular, anti-religious media. For years he refused all calls for an interview. Only once he made an exception. He agreed to be interviewed by one of his long-time admirers, the English writer and former journalist, Malcolm Muggeridge. In the aftermath of the exclusive interview, Mr. Muggeridge said that he spoke few words to the great man. He simply listened at the Master's feet. He drank in his every word. It was an opportunity not to be wasted!

Try to imagine what it must be like to be Mary, sitting at the feet of Our Lord, "the Way, the Truth and the Life". (Jn.14:6) He is the Eternal Word. With profound gratitude, we recall the penetrating words of St. Peter. "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of everlasting life."(Jn. 6:68) Throughout Luke's gospel the expression "sitting at the feet" indicates acknowledgement of authority and is a posture of submission. Martha, Mary's sister, is elsewhere, burdened with much serving. (Lk.10:39) and missing out on an opportunity to listen to her master's voice. Mary has time entirely for Him and is full of interest in his teaching. It is clear that Mary has made the right choice. She welcomes Jesus into her heart and receives him as a messenger of grace.

A question: How important a role does listening to the Lord play in our life as Christians? Some of you may be of an age to remember a remarkable commercial that aired many years ago. It features two men carrying on a conversation in a crowded restaurant, both men are investors. The first one to speak says to the other, "My investment broker offered me advice on how I should invest my money. What about your broker?" "Well" replied his lunch companion, "my broker is E.F. Hutton..."(every single diner in the restaurant listens in) "When E.F. Hutton talks, people listen!" The broker, E.F. Hutton commands the attention of the public!

Are the People of God listening to the Word of God? Are we so caught up in our daily activities that we neglect the teachings of Our Lord? Can Christ be heard today in such noisy surroundings?

In closing, I quote the words of an early doctor of the Church, an exemplary bishop St. Irenaeus. He writes: "There is no other way for us to learn than to see our teacher and hear his voice with our own ears".

Amen!