

# Father Knows Best...

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Our world has become increasingly busy and talkative and interactive and distracting and noisy. And often it leaves us anxious and wound up and unnerved and overwhelmed. And among the many problems that result from all of this is that we are increasingly unable to calm down and be by ourselves and take some time to pray. And this is a problem because when God speaks to us, He does it quietly.

God doesn't call us on our cell phone. God doesn't appear on television or have a call-in show on the radio. God doesn't do email. God doesn't spend His time updating a blog, putting His latest thoughts or insights or jokes or pictures on the Internet for all to see. Quite the opposite to all of this, God prefers silence.

St Faustina wrote in her diary: *In order to hear the voice of God, one has to have silence in one's soul and to keep silence; not a gloomy silence, but an interior silence; that is to say, a recollection in God.* (Diary 118)

Consider all the time we spend talking on the phone, watching television, listening to the radio, reading and sending email, and sitting in front of the computer, typing and reading and commenting. I suppose it could be argued that some of that time *might* be helpful to our souls, *might* make us holy, *might* strengthen us to live a good life, maybe... sometime... but I suspect it is not as often as we would like to think.

On the other hand, any time that we carve out of our day or night to spend in silence and in prayer before God *will* be helpful to our soul, *will* help us to be holy, and *will* strengthen us to live good lives. St. Faustina was right; we need to keep our souls silent and recollected if we hope to hear the voice of God.

In the meantime, we need to take an honest look at how we spend our time and what our priorities are in terms of where our focus is so as to see what kind of spiritual shape we are in. I suspect we may find some excesses that are not helpful or life-giving. Not too many of us are praying too much.

Life is a spiritual battle. We have the Holy Spirit leading us and directing us and at the same time we have the Evil One trying to draw us away from God and godly things. There is a battle going on and again the presence or absence of silence in our lives can be a determining factor in which way the battle is going. St. Faustina wrote in her diary: *Silence is a sword in the spiritual struggle. A talkative soul will never attain sanctity.* (Diary 477)

There are times when, to put it bluntly, we simply need to shut up. We need to stop talking, to turn off the television, to log off the Internet, to stop listening to music, to not answer the phone, and instead, to go into our room and shut the door and speak to our Heavenly Father in silence. If

we keep talking and calling and chatting and texting and surfing, we will never attain sanctity. And without holiness, we are in trouble.

We are in trouble if we are not silent because God can not get through to us. As the song says, "God is a good God, yes, He is;" but He speaks in silence. Again, St. Faustina speaks to the truth of this when she writes in her diary: *The Holy Spirit does not speak to a soul that is distracted and garrulous. He speaks by His quiet inspirations to a soul that is recollected, to a soul that knows how to keep silence.* (Diary 504)

If we want to talk to God, we need to talk God's language. Do you know what God's language is? St. Faustina knew, and she tells us in her diary: *Silence is so powerful a language that it reaches the throne of the living God. Silence is His language, though secret, yet living and powerful.* (Diary 888)

In my latest conception of hell, people are yapping and texting on cell phones. Hell is full of people who think their Myspace and Facebook are the best and they constantly email or text each other with links and updates so everyone will be able to keep up with the latest. Everyone can tweet the same on Twitter forever: "Still in hell." Televisions will be blaring 24/7 and if one can close one's eyes, there will still be radios and sound systems and diabolical iPods at top volume.

On the other hand, in heaven there will be no cell phones, no computers, no televisions. Imagine that.

But what about purgatory? I assure you, I hope not to have a cell phone in purgatory, but I'm sure people around me will, and I can hear their clever ringtones already. But I hope to be smart enough to smile at every passerby who wants to open up their laptop and show me their webpage, as opposed to being unkind and refusing to look, thereby extending my stay.

In the meantime, I think we would all be better off carving out a piece of heaven on earth by making room for some more silence in our lives this side of eternity. Our holiness and perhaps our very eternal life may depend on it.

The psalmist puts it best: *For God alone my soul waits in silence; from Him comes my salvation.* (Psalm 62:1)

And the prophet Zephaniah has the last word: *Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is at hand.* (Zephaniah 1:7)

## Gospa Gala Gift Gathering Party!

Wednesday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009  
7PM to 9:30PM

You are invited to a Gift Gathering party for this year's Gospa Gala to benefit St. Luke's Mission of Mercy's Gospa House for Women and Children! The party will be held at St. Bernadette's Picnic Shelter (5930 South Abbott Road, Orchard Park NY). All donations are gratefully accepted! Bring a basket for raffle or donate items to build a basket. All donated items will help to raise funds during this year's Gala for this important project!

Hors d'oeuvres, wine, beer and soda  
provided. Bring a friend!