



# Announcing Jesus Christ on my Journey!

*To listen is  
probably the  
best gift  
I can give  
someone...  
It is telling the  
person, not  
with words,  
but with your  
eyes, your face,  
your smile,  
and with your  
whole body,  
your whole self:  
"You are  
important to  
me, you are  
interesting,  
I am happy that  
you are there..."  
No wonder,  
then, if the best  
way for  
someone  
to be revealed  
to himself, is to  
be listened to  
by another!*

André Gromard

## Ears to hear!

Christ has no other ears but ours to listen. So often we think of evangelizers as persons who speak, explaining to people what to believe to be a disciple of Jesus and member of his Church. We have to recognize that it is useless to announce the Good News before having really listened to the persons to whom we are sent.

When people got near Jesus, he generally let them speak first. Before announcing to them the Good News of the Kingdom of God, he wishes to hear their expectations. It was so for the blind Bartimaeus. Jesus asked him: "What do you want me to do for you?" In a certain way, it was clear... the man was blind! But Jesus wants to hear him express what he desires. He then answers to the expressed desire.

No need to say: "Jesus is the answer" as if he were the miracle cure. It is essential to start from where the people are and what they want. Persons living alone would probably wish to have company. Others, unable to go to the grocery store, would want some help to go buy what they need. Lastly, others would want only a loving presence who offers a hand. If we answer the expectations of those to whom we are sent, it is possible they will discover deeper desires which will lead them to God.

What is important is to give them time to arrive at this discovery.

Listening to others is one of the greatest arts in this world. If we really listen, with all our imagination, with an open spirit and open heart, God will give us something to say!

The need is for us to be opened to what the other person is living and experiencing, to his or her convictions, to his or her questions!

+ Claude Champagne, O.M.I.  
Bishop of Edmundston

## Reflection!

How do we relate to others? Those near us,  
those we meet...?  
They speak to us but do we really listen to them?

## Questions to ask yourself?

- ☺ Can I listen quietly when someone speaks to me?
- ☺ Did you experience a situation in which you felt the person in front of you was not listening to you? What were your feelings then? Another experience when you felt listened to. What were your feelings?
- ☺ Do you listen even if you do not like the person who is speaking?
- ☺ Can you listen with the same interest, whatever the race, sex or age of the person speaking?