

EPISODE 15 – Liturgy and Language

1. What prayers or words of the Mass remind you that our true home is in heaven?
 - With some reflection and meditation I can say that there is a bit of a reminder that my true home is in heaven within each of the prayers.
 - For years I have taken the time at the start of each day to select and meditate using Lectio Divina. Most often I have selected scripture for my meditation. However, there was a period of time this year when I decided to do this with the prayers of the Mass. All of these prayers I had heard and said many times over the years. The words were so familiar that I was not paying attention to what they were actually saying. Through my meditation and prayer these words came to life once again. In them I heard the conversation of the family of God gathered around His table. In that conversation the words that remind me the most that our true home is in heaven are those in which we give thanks to God and celebrate the love we share with Him and with each other. If I had to pick out just one prayer, it would be the Gloria.
2. What makes the setting at Mass different from other settings where we encounter people every day?
 - Although we are children of God and God lives within us, meeting and talking with God is not the same as meeting and talking with others whether they are family, friends, or strangers. Just as I have had to learn to talk to the people in my life in a broad spectrum of situations, I have had to also learn to talk to God. True communication with God requires me to not only talk but to also listen. It is the listening which I have found to be the most difficult, but I have to say that although it took me many years to learn how to listen, once I did learn it was absolutely amazing how well I could hear Him.
 - A book that really helped to learn how to listen is “How to Listen When God is Speaking” by Fr. Mitch Pacwa.
 - The Mass is a place which shares many elements with other settings where I encounter people every day, but is special in that it is clearly focused on my relationship and love of my creator, my most perfect Father. It is that setting that helps me to give all my attention to God. It is a help but I must choose to leave the world behind and step into the heavenly banquet to converse with my loving Father. He listens intently to me. I need to listen intently to Him.