

Third Thursday of Lent – 2/28

"Jesus was casting out a demon that was mute; when the demon had gone out, the one who had been mute spoke, and the crowds were amazed." (Luke 11:14)

A woman asked her neighbor how she was doing. The woman replied that she was fine but that her small child had been a real demon that morning. It seemed as though everything he did that morning was mean spirited. Of course, we know that the child was not possessed, but the concept of the demon being a mean spirit is a good one.

The demon in the mute must have taken delight in the fact that the person could not speak. When Jesus came along and cast him out the mute person could once again communicate. It was a bad day for the demon! The mute had been under his power and now was released and the demon was evicted.

At the time of Jesus, unexplained illness or physical disabilities were often thought to be caused by possession of demons. Today we know that these illness and physical problems often were medical issues that could have been treated by physicians. They are not caused by demons but that does not mean that demons do not exist.

There are people who are always afraid to speak up in situations where their words might be very helpful. They fear what people will say or they feel that how they say something will come out wrong or sound stupid. Is there not a demon of muteness working in them? When we become aware of an issue of justice and remain quiet are we not possessed by this demon? This demon seems to have taken up residence in many of our hearts, for there are far too few voices speaking up for the poor, the mentally ill, the homeless and the children. When the demon of muteness has taken over apathy is often the most strikingly visible characteristic.

Today invite Jesus into your heart and ask Him to remove the demon of silence from your life. Confront an injustice in your workplace or your home today. Write a letter or an e-mail to your congressional representative asking that they sponsor legislation that responds to the needs of the poor. Visit with someone that you've never taken time to get to know before. Banish the demons of silence so that the word of Jesus can be heard.

Reflection Questions

- 1. What happens when I go mute in moments I could speak about Jesus?*
- 2. I am uniquely suited to speak out against something today. What is it?*

Prayer: Lord, I have been silent too long. I have not spoken up for those who have no voice in our world. Heal me of my silence. Let me be Your voice. Amen.