

Message from the president

OF THE AECQ

RELEASE THE WORD AND OPEN YOUR EARS!

Freedom of speech is a sign of health in our relationships and our society, if it is exercised with respect for others. Freeing speech implies listening to and welcoming the other in his or her difference. A word that imposes itself, manipulates or silences becomes violence; a word that is ignored or misinterpreted leads to exclusion. Speaking and listening are intimately linked to building healthy, just and fruitful relationships.

In the Bible, God does not only speak: he listens and is moved by the sufferings of his people.

“I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land” (Ex 3:7-8).

The word of God, rooted in active and caring listening, bears fruits of justice and peace, liberation, forgiveness and healing.

Inspired by this active word of God, Catechetical Sunday 2022 invites us to release the Word and to listen, not only in catechesis or liturgy, but also in our daily lives, relationships and community. Let us open spaces for mutual listening and dialogue, to become a more inclusive and missionary Church, which “makes itself close to the men and women of our time, walking alongside them where they are” (*Directory for Catechesis* 2020, #50)!

Happy Catechetical Sunday!

+ Christian Rodembourg

Bishop of St-Hyacinthe

President of the Assembly of Quebec Catholic Bishops