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## ON LISTENING SKILLS

Leilani Mock,  
 THE PRIEST, June '87

“Many people choose not to listen. They are afraid that if they hear new ideas they will have to act on them. Resistance to change can be a powerful force. Rather than upset the status quo, some will ‘hear you out,’ but they never really listen. Hearing is a physical act; listening calls for emotional involvement.”

## ON WISDOM

Buddhist proverb

“To know, and not to do,  
 is not yet to know.”

## LET US DARE

John Adams

“Let us dare to read, to think,  
 to speak and to write.”

## EVERY IDEA ...

Mortimer J. Adler

“Every idea is a source of life and light which animates and illuminates the words, facts, examples, and emotions that are dead — or deadly — and dark without them.”

## I HAVE A DREAM

Martin Luther King, Jr.

“I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed:



“We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal’....I have a dream that one day ‘every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plains, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together’ ....This will be the day when all God’s children will be able to sing with new meaning, ‘My country ‘tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers

died, land of the pilgrims’ pride, from every mountainside, let freedom ring’....When we let



freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all God’s children, black and white, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of that old Negro spiritual, ‘Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!’”

## WORK OF CHRISTMAS

Anonymous

“When the song of the angels is stilled,  
 when the star in the sky is gone,  
 when the kings and princes are home,  
 when the shepherds are back with the flocks,  
 the work of Christmas begins:

to feed the hungry,  
 to release the prisoners,  
 to rebuild the nations,  
 to bring peace among  
 brothers and sisters,  
 to make music with the heart.”



## SIN AGAINST LIFE

Albert Camus

“If there is a sin against life, it consists perhaps not so much in despairing of life as in hoping for another life and in eluding the implacable grandeur of this life.”

## STORYTELLING: IMAGINATION AND FAITH

Rev. William Bausch

“We must remember that the experience of Jesus came before reflections about him. This is a way of saying that life came before thought, and that story came before theology. ...

Signs, actions, gestures, and symbol also became part of the overall story. Ritual itself is a story line in action. ...

Of course, it can happen and has happened that a ritual can lose its story connection through routine, boredom, and repetition. When this happens, people often continue the ritual out of rote, but no longer remember the story it was attached to or expressed. ... ”

### THE GREAT PERSON

Meng-Tse

“The great person does not think beforehand of one’s words that they may be sincere, nor of one’s actions that they may be resolute — one simply speaks and does what is right.”

### SUCCESS IN LIFE

Earl Nightingale, *Insight*, # 58

“I think our young people in school should be taught this fact: that succeeding in life is not a matter of luck or chance or circumstance, but only a matter of preparation — of doing what they are given to do each day the best they can and holding firm to the certain knowledge that their time will come and that they will be ready for it when it does.”

### AFFIRMATION OF LIFE

Anonymous

“In Dr. Albert Schweitzer’s words, if affirmation of life is genuine it will ‘demand from all that they should sacrifice a portion of their own lives for others.’”

### FULLY HUMAN, FULLY ALIVE

Fr. John Powell, S.J.

“Perhaps the most profound question asked by life is the question of significance and meaning. All of us have to find some purpose or mission in life which will confer upon us a sense of personal distinction and worth. We need to believe that our lives will make a difference for someone or for something.”

### I AM THE NEW YEAR

BIBLE ILLUSTRATOR

“I am the new year. I am an unspoiled page in your book of time.

I am your next chance at the art of living. I am your opportunity to practice what you have learned about life during the last twelve months.

All that you sought and didn’t find is hidden in me, waiting for you to search it but with more determination.

All the good that you tried for and



didn’t achieve is mine to grant when you have fewer conflicting desires.

All that you dreamed but didn’t dare to do, all that you hoped but did not will, all the faith that you claimed but did not have — these slumber lightly, waiting to be awakened by the touch of a strong purpose.

I am your opportunity to renew your allegiance to Him who said, ‘Behold, I make all things new.’”

### ONE LITTLE CANDLE

Marian Wight Edelman

“God, please help us remember that all the darkness in the world cannot snuff out the light of one little candle. Help us to keep lighting our little candles until a mighty torch of justice sweeps our nation and the world.”

### HUNGRY FOR JOY

Brené Brown

“We’re a nation hungry for more joy ... because we’re starving from a lack of gratitude.”

### PRODUCTIVE IDEAS

*Bits & Pieces*, August ‘79

“Productive ideas are most apt to occur to the person who is looking for them. With few exceptions, important inventions and innovations have been conceived by people who were trying to solve a problem, who had an intense desire to find a better way, and who persisted despite repeated failure.”

### A DAILY PRAYER

Douglas A. Cox

“Today I will treasure fond memories, learn from my past and build positive mental images of the great moments of my life ...”

Today I will look with hope to the future. I will celebrate my right to dream, to imagine, and to believe. My mind is the birthplace of my future...

Today I will believe in this moment and seize it as the pinnacle on which my whole life balances ... This is my moment of truth. What is past is history and what lies ahead is pure imagination. To be completely alive, here in this moment, is the secret of inspired living.

Motivation is a temporary art, inspiration is a permanent science which magnifies our power beyond measure.

**This day is mine!”**