

Communication and Theology Project Conference
St. John's University, New York
September 16-18, 2008

G. Mazza (gmazza@unigre.it)
Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome

“Communicate by listening”: announcement, consent, communication

Abstract

Our contribution concerns the pertinence of the listening process to faith announcement and mediation. Against the abuses of both an ideological rhetoric of proclamation and of a pretentious editorial magniloquence, a *policy of global listening* could stress the primacy of the listening process as a “communicative gesture” in itself. “Communicating by listening”, pastoral announcement gives birth to an effective ministry of acceptance and reciprocity. That also meets the challenge of pairing Christian “absolute” truth claim with the demanding needs of a shared “creation” of meaning. In this sense, theology and communication are urged to converge: faith announcement is always spurred to deal with a listening process as meaningful relational and empathic agreement (*con-sentire*) between interlaced worlds.