

TAKE A CHANCE ON GOD AND LEAVE THE REST TO HIM

The Beatles will always remain an exceptional English Rock Band; I am yet to see any band that might overthrow them in my lifetime. While growing up in Nigeria, I listened passionately to their music; the one that touches me the most is **“LET IT BE”**.

LET IT BE was written by Paul McCartney when the band was at its lowest point. Paul's mum – Mary Patricia McCartney, had died of breast cancer in 1956. Before her passing, her only regret was the fact she would not be there to see her boys growing up. Paul was very close to his mum and carried that burden on his shoulders throughout his life. In September 1968, having tried everything to revive the band and continue their music careers, it was clear that nothing could salvage it. The bandmates were not talking to each other; the use of drugs, and the stress they were exposed to, were having their effects on all of them. Paul called that period **“His hour of darkness.”** It was during this tensed period that Paul had a dream one night in which he saw his mum – Mary Patricia McCartney. In that dream, Paul recounted that his mum was very reassuring of him and kept telling him: **“It will be alright. Do not worry too much, it will turn out okay.”** Paul was so fired up with that dream; he felt so blessed from it that he woke up started writing LET IT BE. The song was released in 1970 and it topped the charts in both the UK and USA. The first stanza of that song goes thus: **“When I find myself in times of trouble, Mother Mary comes to me. Speaking words of wisdom, let it be. And in my hour of darkness, she is standing right in front of me. Speaking words of wisdom, let it be.”** This song by The Beatles summarizes everything we have heard in this Sunday's Readings on taking a chance on God and allowing Him to accomplish His work in us.

In our Gospel pericope from Luke Chapter 1, we witnessed the dilemma a young virgin girl – Mary, had to navigate through. She was clueless regarding the disturbing message of Angel Gabriel; however, she took a chance on God and said Yes! It is this same taking a chance on God and saying yes that we encountered in today's First Reading from 2 Samuel Chapter 7. King David discovered that God had been gracious to him and decided to do something nice for God by wanting to build Him a house. When God through Prophet Nathan, asked him not to go ahead with the project, he said Yes! It is this same saying Yes to God, that St Paul praised the Romans for in today's Second Reading from Romans Chapter 16. The early Christians in Rome said Yes to God who then gave them the strength to live according to the Good News he preached to them.

My friends, although taking a chance on God and saying Yes to Him is to swim against the current; however, that is the only option that is open to us as Christians living in our contemporary world. One thing is sure, if we say Yes to God, we can be certain He will say Yes to us. The Beatles summarised this in the last stanza of LET IT BE, thus: **“And when the night is cloudy there is still a light that shines on me; Shinin' until tomorrow, let it be. I wake up to the sound of music, Mother Mary comes to me; Speaking words of wisdom, let it be.”** Let us take a chance on God by saying to Him – **LET IT BE!!!**

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Homily for the 4th Sunday of Advent, Year B (24/12/2023)