

Speaking In A Resonant Space

In resonant spaces, hearing problems are usually not an issue of loudness, but an issue of clarity. In other words, the Lector is heard, but not understood.

In a resonant space, it is still necessary to speak at a reasonable volume, which is louder than conversational speech. However, speaking too loud can over excite the space, which leads to a lack of clarity. The Lector should proclaim scripture from a distance of seven to twelve inches from the microphone (depending on how loud your voice projects). The emphasis here is on the word, "Proclaims." The Lector is neither speaking nor shouting, but "Proclaiming."

In a resonant space, if the Lector is heard but not understood, then the issue is one of articulation. Speak the following sentence aloud.

"THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME,
FOR HE HAS SENT ME TO BRING GLAD TIDINGS TO THE POOR."

Did you pronounce?

"t" in SPIRIT

"n" in UPON

"ng" in BRING

"f" in OF

"s" in HAS

"d" in GLAD

"d" in LORD

"t" in SENT

"ngs" in TIDINGS

"s" in IS

Ending consonant sounds are frequently dropped when speaking. Reread the above quote aloud making sure to articulate the ending consonant sounds.

If you pronounced the ending consonant sounds aloud, you probably found yourself having to speak more slowly. This should answer the question, "how slow should one speak?" One should speak as slow as necessary to articulate ending consonant sounds.

Occasionally, one "blames" the sound system or the echo for one's inability to understand the Lector. When this happens, the question that needs to be asked is, "Is there no one you can understand?" Inevitably, the response is that there are people who can be understood from the Ambo, Altar, Presider's Chair, and Cantor Stand. As such, the responsibility for being understood lay with the person speaking.

The above acknowledges the difficulty a resonant space creates for the Lector. However, these challenges are not insurmountable. It simply requires a thoughtful preparation.