

### **“Lord that I may see” : Lent4th Sunday**

Once an atheist took his wife to a Hospital, run by Catholic nuns, as she was close to giving birth to their child. In the room given to them, was a crucifix hanging on the wall. The man who was an unbeliever said to the nurse: “Take that away. I do not want the eyes of my child who is about to be born to see Jesus on the Cross”. The baby was born that same night and in the morning the father asked the nurse: “How is my son?” “He is fine,” replied the nurse, and remarked: “Your wish has been answered, the child is born blind.”

Eyesight is one of the greatest blessings of God. For a blind person, the charming beauty and attractions of this world are not possible to enjoy. There are people who are blind, and there are others who pretend to be blind, namely, who close their eyes to life situations. There are yet others who have good eyesight as well as inner *vision*. Today’s gospel is about *blindness, inner vision and physical sight*. The Gospel is telling us the story of a beggar, born blind. In Jesus time, Jewish society considered blindness a curse from God, a punishment for sins. But Jesus rejected the idea of blindness as punishment. Jesus answered to the question of pharisees, saying: He is blind, ‘so that the works of God might be made visible through him’. And then he reached out to heal the blind.

The man born blind in today’s gospel had never been able to see his mother’s face or the light of a sunrise. For his entire life, he saw only darkness, and his condition was considered “incurable”. Besides, He was hurt not only physically, but also spiritually and emotionally, because people rejected him and isolated him from the community, and Jesus knew how painful this was. Unlike the Barthimeus, the blind man of Jericho who runs after Jesus saying,

“Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me, here Jesus spotted the man in his solation and reaches out to him, to heal him.

Evangelist John presents Jesus as Living *Water, Light and Life*. Last Sunday: woman at the well- water, next Sunday, Lazarus. John wants to teach us that Jesus is the true light of the world. “I came into the world so that those who do not see might see, and those who see might become blind’. Sounds like a paradox? He is paradoxically pointing to the pretended blindness of the Pharisees.

Physical loss of sight may not necessarily be our blindness. It could be anything that limits us and prevents us from maximizing our potential in life; or true blindness is *-our inability to see Jesus, as the Lord and savior*. The blind man represents our collective human situation; which is constantly crying for healing and liberation from illness and the powers of darkness.

To be free from these limitations: First, we must humbly acknowledge our vulnerability. It is interesting to note that because the blindman was healed, after receiving sight, he sees Jesus, he becomes witness and disciple: as he said: ‘Who is he, sir, so that I may believe in him? “I do believe Lord”, he said and worshipped Jesus. A second thing is to imitate Jesus, who generated light from darkness, grace in vulnerability and hope in despair. Faith is our response: which *involves mental assent and personal entrustment*.

We need greater courage to go and help the vulnerable in the streets of our time. It is in these places of extreme hopelessness and vulnerability that we meet the God of healing and hope. And in this context, our mission is to become disciples, Beacons-of light and hope, light of Jesus, that chases away all darkness within& out.