

Fourth Sunday of Lent 2020

My beloved brothers and sisters, when I was a teenager, I went deep into a mine shaft, and one of my friends said: "let's turn off our flashlights." I have never experienced darkness so dark! I felt as if the mountain itself was crushing me. I quickly returned to the entrance, and I will never forget how bright was the sun, how green the grass and trees, how blue was the sky, and how beautiful the scenery, as if I had never seen it before!

All of the readings for this Sunday, reflect upon the light of God, and by this light, we see the Way, the Truth and His light! The healing miracle of the blind man brings to light all of these elements. The Gospel teaches us how blind we can be, and how to receive a miracle of a new way of seeing! By Jesus, we receive a new vision beyond our physical sight, thanks to Him who is the Light of the World.

In the first reading, we are reminded that God does not see as we see. In the Hebrew culture of Samuel, David was insignificant and unimportant; he was a mere kid. And yet to God, David was the King who would unite His people under God. Before he was ever born, God knew David, knew he would be a terrible sinner, but also knew that David would be the writer of the Psalms and lead His people to Him. David, one of the great sinners, became one of the Old Testament Saints. God has chosen us as well, and though we many not know the purpose that God has for us, as long as we continually surrender ourselves to the work of God, God will illuminate our lives and make visible that plan for us!

In the second reading, Paul reminds us that the whole of humanity was in darkness until the coming of Christ, who came to lead us into the light. Paul reminds us that sin is the ultimate darkness. We are now living in a time of great darkness, but Christ is waiting to lead us out of the darkness into His light. We are reminded, ""that for those who love God, all things work unto the good..." This present darkness can be overwhelming for many people, because of fear; however, it can be the means which Jesus calls us back into the light of His life! Now is the time to listen to His call! Paul warns us to be on guard against those things of the world that lure us into the darkness.

In the Gospel, Jesus leads a man born blind, and brings him into His Divine Light. This light shines upon every person in the story. The blind man, now is able to truly see. He sees that Jesus is The Light sent by the Father, and falls down in worship before Him. On the other hand, the Pharisees in the story, fail to see the Light of God manifested in Jesus, because of their narrowmindedness. They accuse Jesus of being a sinner, because He supposedly broke the Sabbath. They miss seeing the incredible miracle. The Jews, (meaning the leadership in Jerusalem) excommunicate the man who now sees, because he has the audacity to call out their narrowmindedness.

Jesus was offering His Divine light to everyone in the story, the Pharisees, the Jewish leadership, the blind man's parents, the disciples, and the man born blind. Today, Jesus is calling us into His Divine Light. We are seeing good people who are responding with great courage and generosity of heart, and we are seeing the capacity for selfishness and sin. We are seeing our own capacity for selfishness and sin in our fears; but, we are also seeing the call of Jesus into His solace and peace by repentance and prayer! During this time of testing, let Jesus draw you and your family into His Divine Light: deepen your prayer, especially the Rosary, fast from sinful attitudes and deeds, be generous in deeds and by simple gestures of checking on family members and friends. Remember, you are all joined with me in every mass that I pray, and I bare you all in my heart!