Fourth Sunday of Lent — March 19, 2023

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

The healing of blindness has been preached during Lent for almost as long as the church lived. As the days are Lenten ones, that is, as they lengthen towards more and more sunlight in our days, so we are urged to let more and more light into our lives. The Easter Baptisms were once called "photismos" - enlightenment, letting the light in. We keep this symbol before us still – the blessing of new fire, the paschal candle, the candles handed to the newly baptized and to all the faithful at the Easter Vigil. In the light of Jesus Christ we have a new and different look at things.

We begin to look not at mere images and outward appearances, but at realities, at the heart of things. This radically different vision is the one the Lord urged. God does not see in this human way; it is human to look at appearances, but God looks at the heart.

Even the disciples don't see things right at first: "Rabbi, who sinned," they ask, "this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?" Blindness was much associated with sinfulness then. Jesus asks us not to look at blame, but at opportunity, at occasions for epiphanies of light and vision, at human beings needing the pool of Siloam, the bath of forgiveness and healing and acceptance that is "sent" from the ocean of God's love. Neither inherited blame or individual blame is the issue, but that the work of God might be seen in new vision, new life, Jesus moistens clay with his own saliva – an old fashioned remedy – applies it to the eyes of the man born blind and sends him off to a sacred pool to wash. He comes back, seeing. Somewhat. It's not complete. For although he knows he's able to see, he doesn't know where to look, or where Jesus is in all this.

"Where is he?" the neighbors ask him. "I don't know," he answers. The act of baptism doesn't complete our own illumination, either. Nor does confirmation, nor indeed does ordination! The Pauline writer reminds us that children of light must walk in the light, for the fruit of light is in the walking. It's not enough to blink at the brightness. We are to walk what is good and right and true, and to continue to learn. A personal commitment needs to be made; the gifts need to be appropriated and tested. The testing is all around us, as it was all around the man who came back seeing.

It is in the midst of this night time of blindness that the man born blind -he is all of us -has his healing made complete . Though he did not know where Jesus was, and in their blindness, those around him cannot help, it is Jesus who finds him and confronts him with the need to make a personal commitment of faith in the one who gives him vision.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**March 21**	**11:00AM**
	NO MASS	
Wed.	**March 22**	**11:00AM**
Cecilia Bernas †		Bob† & Lydia
Thur.	**March 23**	**11:00AM**
Tony Jacob †		Lily Militar
Fri.	**March 24**	**11:00AM**
Nicolas & Jovita Pena †		Pena Family
Sat.	**March 25**	**4:30PM**
Pauline Cardoza †		ICF #14
Sun.	**March 26**	**9:00AM**
David & Albert Ponti †		Stella Noe
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of the Parish		

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