

## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters



“As Jesus passed by he saw a man blind from birth...”

It is not only in today’s Mass, but many times that the Bible speaks of sight, eyes, the capacity to see, and blindness.

The man in today’s Gospel is blind from birth; he is an image of us. All of us were born with the sin of Adam who, after his fall from grace, was no longer able to see God.

In the beginning of creation, Adam and Eve were able to see God, they lived the Beatitude: “Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God”, and were also able to see one and other. But having rebelled against God, they found themselves banished from His presence, deprived from his sight, and also experienced enmity in their relationship with each other. While before they rejoiced to see God, and were able to look at one another with love, now they are afraid to see God, and experience selfishness towards each other. They are blind.

Blindness, in the Scripture, is not only a physical condition, but is indicative of an inner spiritual reality. We are made not only of flesh and blood, but also of the spirit. The capacity to see is linked to the condition of one’s spirit. We are either blind, or able to see; there is no middle ground. A person can have two eyes in their head and yet be completely blind!

Samson, famously, became blind. An ox of a man, he leaned on God, and was able to mow down the enemies of the people of Israel. No one could overcome him. We too have enemies of our soul, and like Samson, in the measure we lean on God we can defeat them.

But Samson would become a weakling, his eyes were put out by the Philistines. This happened because at some point he began not to lean on God, not to put God at the center of his life, but rather trusted in his own strength and resources. Out of affectivity he gave away the secret of his strength to a woman, who cut off his hair – the sign of his relationship with God.

“The lamp of the body is the eye. It follows that if your eye is clear, your whole body will be filled with light. But if your eye is diseased, your whole body will be darkness, what darkness that will be!”

There is a great Good News for us today. If your eye is diseased, if you are living in darkness, if you do not see God, Christ is coming! He is the only one able to restore our sight. He does so by spitting on the ground, making a paste, and putting it in our eyes, and we will hear the words “Go and wash”. The spittle is his Word, the ground is the clay of which we are made. His Word, mixed with our human reality, calls us to the truth: we can all say mea culpa! I am blind!

During Lent we are on a journey to the waters of Baptism. We are walking towards the Paschal night, the Easter Vigil, and the renewal of our Baptismal promises. The Easter night is anticipated in today’s liturgy, we can truly experience that Christ comes today to restore our sight.

Fr. Sean