

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2015 - HOLY HOUR
“Have eyes that see”

Greeting

Dear friends, when we see the world and those around us as mere means to get what we want, spiritual blindness is at work. It occurs when we follow our own pride-filled ways, selfishly seeking our own interests. When we are proud, we do not want God because we feel we do not need him. In selfishness, we are led to believe that God exists only to answer our prayers, often as a last resort. Is spiritual blindness incurable? It is without God. Therefore, let us seek him out today.

Hymn – Glory and praise to our God (chorus & vs.3)

Opening Prayer:

(Psalm 27: 1, 4, 13, 14)

Your response will be : We praise You O Lord! And we bless You

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? **R/**

One thing I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after:
to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple. **R/**

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD
in the land of the living.
Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage;
Wait for the LORD! **R/**

A moment of prayerful silence - so that the Word of God may enter into us and enlighten us.

Scripture Reading : Gospel of Mathew 9: 27-31 *(to be read from the Bible only)*

As Jesus passed by, two blind men followed him, crying out,
“Son of David, have pity on us!”
When he entered the house, the blind men approached him and Jesus said to them,
“Do you believe that I can do this?”
“Yes, Lord,” they said to him.
Then he touched their eyes and said,
“Let it be done for you according to your faith.”
And their eyes were opened.
Jesus warned them sternly, “See that no one knows about this.”
But they went out and spread word of him through all that land.

Reflection (*pause for silence after each aspect*)

- As these men were blind, they could have had no firsthand witnessing of Christ's miracles. They believed that Christ could heal them, simply on the testimony of others who had seen for themselves. From this point of view, their implicit trust in Christ's power to cure them was a statement of their faith in him.
- The miracle, however, is not just the restoration of their physical sight. The former blind men gained in-sight. They saw who Jesus really was and called him Lord, in other words the 'Messiah', the 'one who comes to save'. They could spiritually see!
- Jesus told them not to say anything about their healing. He did not want to be famous as a miracle-worker. He did not want people to get the wrong idea of his real mission. But the joy of the blind men at being healed was so great, they could not keep silent. They simply had to share that experience with everyone else.

Faith is a gift freely given by God to help us know him personally and to experience his healing presence in our lives. The trouble is that most of the time, we turn to God only after we have exhausted all other options. We only turn to Him because there is no other choice left. As the Lord says, "Let it be done for you according to your faith." (Mt 9:29). So, if we say our faith is strong, we should be turning to God in all things, in good times and in bad.

Faith removes the blocks from our lives so that when we encounter the Lord we become receptive to his grace. This transformative experience with the Lord enables us to share the 'good news' with all.

Personal reflection (*pause after each*)

1. Are there any situations in my life that prevent me from turning to God for help? What do I gain by keeping my pride?
2. Do I turn to God only when all other options fail?
3. Who wins if I give everything over to God?

What can I do towards personal transformation?

- Learn about the Lord. Read the stories about him, about the miracles and wonders he has worked for others.
- Seek the Lord. Ask him to come into your life. Ask him for a miracle, for patience, for understanding, for love and for forgiveness.
- Make the Lord present daily in your life. Tell him you believe in him. Thank him.

Hymn – We walk by faith/ Jesus you are my salvation

Intercessory Prayer

Leader: God of love, you invite everyone to know and love you. In faith, we come to you saying:

(R) Always, you have given an answer to our prayer.

1. For the clergy, religious and the laity, that they may see clearly the ways of the Lord and walk his path....(*pause*)....we pray to the Lord. **(R)**

2. For the many people who do not yet know the Lord and for those who have not received his word.(*pause*)....we pray to the Lord. (R)
3. For those who act with selfishness and pride; that their eyes might be opened to the wonders of the Lord's presence among us.(*pause*)....we pray to the Lord. (R)
4. For the gift of unwavering faith in the Lord for all of us who feel threatened by the storms of life. (*pause*)we pray to the Lord. (R)
5. For all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, and have lost all hope, that they may experience the healing of the Lord.(*pause*)....we pray to the Lord. (R)
6. For all of us, for our families, and for local needs....(*pause*)....we pray to the Lord. (R)

Leader: Almighty and everlasting God, give us strength and joy in our faith. When we are in danger of being blinded in spirit, give us renewed confidence and trust in your love and mercy and heal our blindness. We ask you this, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Benediction follows.

Benediction hymn – Let us bow in adoration

Concluding hymn – Great things happen / At the name of Jesus

--- *Maureen Pereira*
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