



## **4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY of LENT** **YEAR B – March 11, 2018**

It is Year B for the Scripture Readings in our Liturgy. However, when the Scrutinies are celebrated with our candidates and catechumens in our RCIA program, the Readings for Year A are chosen. That is the case here today.

In the gospel passage (John 9:1-41) a man is told to go and wash in the pool called Siloam. It's a deep well inside the walls of Jerusalem. It contains the water that is sent through a conduit that was cut through 400 meters of rock. Not an easy thing to do without modern day equipment. It was to be the lifeline of Jerusalem in case of siege by the enemy. John sees this pool of "water sent by God" as a representation of Jesus, who was sent by God to help us when we are under siege. Today he addresses our spiritual blindness. Recovery of that kind of sight takes time.

The Gospel is for all times and all people. Today's passage reminds us that, in a sense, we were all born blind and we were groping in darkness until at baptism, we began our journey of faith into the light and the likeness of Christ.

During Lent Jesus is asking us to look at the blind spots in our soul. It takes time and requires patience. That's why we celebrate Lent every year, to gradually grow in God's grace and remove the spiritual cataracts that keep us from being fully human and fully alive.

In the second reading, (Ephesians 5:8-14) Paul tells us, "Be like children of the light" Avoid the children of darkness. See things through the eyes of Jesus.

The first sure sign that one is seeing with the eyes of Christ is the ability to see goodness and beauty in the most unlikely places. Jesus had a rare talent for sensing the hidden goodness in people who were notorious sinners, compromised tax-collectors, prostitutes, hot tempered fishermen, social outcasts, zealous nationalists and in the gospel today, an unhappy young rich man.

In contrast to the eyes of Jesus who saw goodness where most people don't, we often see through the filter of our own prejudices, like the Pharisees did. The Pharisees had already judged Jesus, so all they can see now is the breaking of the Sabbath - not the breaking of God's law, the breaking of their law. They become more important than God because of their sinful pride.

Today we celebrate the second scrutinies with our catechumens in our RCIA program. That ceremony includes their examination of conscience. They will take time to look at things in their lives with the eyes of Jesus, in the light of Christ if you will.



They will look for the blind spots that need attention. Sin can creep into our lives in many ways. If not addressed, it can grow like weeds in the garden of our souls. It is possible to choose evil under the appearance of good and rationalize it away. We don't come to our senses until we allow the light of Christ to shine on those dark spots and see ourselves as he sees us.

Today is the time for our catechumens to do that. It's time for us to do that too.