

SUNDAY HOMILY  
FOURTH WEEK OF LENT  
22 March 2020

On the Gospel: John 9: 1-41 ([usccb daily readings](#))

***Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning;  
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.***

***Entrance Antiphon  
Isaiah 66: 10-11***

Blindsided.

Haven't we all been blindsided by the events of these weeks? What started as reports of illness in China and Europe are now reports in our own state and in our county. And now we progressively move to more and more physical distancing.

Here at the parish we have been blindsided that's for sure, but it has caused us to open our eyes even more so. It has opened us up to a great deal of brainstorming. I am so proud of our faculty, administration and staff of our school. Our school is – for the most part – fully functioning online. Our website, as I hope you can tell, is fully functioning as a great means of communication. And other forms of social media through the staff, the school and the parish are being updated each day by parishioners. For those who don't have internet, we've been utilizing the outdoor library box by school to put updates and hardcopies of the weekend bulletin. I've seen people driving by to check it out periodically. So I am grateful for that. All this is reaching out of the blindness of distancing to the sight of staying connected as best we can.

As we settle into this new reality, we may ask not only questions of employment concerns or financial concerns or school concerns but we may also start to ask questions of spiritual concerns.

Why is this happening? Where is God? Why does God allow this?

It's what the Apostles did as they walked with Jesus and encountered a man blind from birth. They asked Jesus, "Who sinned this man or his parents that he was born blind?" Remember in the Gospels, any question asked always opens a deeper layer and deeper level of entering more fully into who Jesus is. This gospel question doesn't disappoint.

Jesus responds: Neither - he is blind so that the works of God may be made visible through him.

There is a story told of Bishop Fulton Sheen (we were supposed to have a soup supper about him, anyway) He was approached by a rather notable woman. Congresswoman, writer, ambassador, Clare Booth Luce, she had experienced the tragic loss of her daughter who died in a car accident. The event left her rather numb to God and religion. Sheen began to speak to her of God's goodness. Luce wanted nothing to do with the pious platitudes. She got in his face and asked "If God is so good why did my daughter die?" Sheen responded, "so that through this sorrow, you might be here, in this church, so we could talk to each other." In time Clare Booth Luce converted to Catholicism.

So why is this happening... why have we been blindsided. Well, my friends, Go ahead and ask your questions: What about my stocks? What about my job? What about my projects and plans? What about my prom or my graduation?

But also ask the spiritual questions as well. All of this is happening so that the work of God in your life and for life may be made more visible. So what needs to be brought to sight in you? This is a time to deepen marriages or even repair your marriages, this is a time to deepen relationships or patch them up, this is a time to find family remaining strongly connected or to find a reconnection, this is a time to perhaps reprioritize and ask not so much what is my purpose for my life but ask what is God's purpose for my life, this is a time to look out for the elderly who have forged the way before us, this is a time to say yes to life as our faith always does even as some virus wants to make our life sick and even take life away. This is a time to see God's work in our care, concern, and compassion.

Ask the spiritual questions in prayer. When you do get ready for a reply... and not just any old reply, but get ready for your eyes to be opened to the work of God made visible.