

Gospel Reflection

“JustFaith” at OLA is a group of fifteen parishioners who are studying, experiencing, praying and discussing the Social Justice teachings of the Catholic Church. Just as the blind man was first given physical sight, which later developed into spiritual sight, leading him to worship Jesus as his savior, the JustFaith experience has provided us with a new “sight,” or a new way of looking at issues effective our lives. As you might expect, when you gather 15 people together, you can end up with 15 different views on any individual topic. But, when you have a “common ground” starting point (our Christian faith), the vision of a group can become much more focused.

Jesus healed the blind man so that he could see his world for the first time through eyes of faith. This is also the goal of the JustFaith formation process. We now can look at our world through the eyes of our faith. The US Catholic Bishops, in *Economic Justice for All*, tell us that, “[t]he fundamental moral criteria for all economic decisions, policies, and institutions is this: ‘They must be at the service of all people, especially the poor.’” With this principle in mind, as well as our belief that all people are created in the image and likeness of God, we must test our new sight, even if it means seeing differently from others.

Some of the questions we must face, in light of faith and trust in Jesus, are: How will we respond in the coming national election? Will we vote for a candidate that will enrich us personally, but at the same time be bad for the environment, or for those living on fixed or low incomes? Will we buy products made in sweatshops or with child labor, just because they are cheaper? Will we invest in a company that makes a large profit, but provides little or no health care for its employees? Will we profess our love for Christ and our neighbor, but turn a blind eye to the things that make us uncomfortable, such as poverty, homelessness, abortion, or war?

To see with eyes of faith is to have a clear vision of God, ourselves and others. Today’s Gospel reminds us that we are to live seeking what is good and true, for ourselves and for our neighbors.

JustFaith, OLA Community

KEEPING FAITH FIRST FAMILY FUN

John 9:1-41

W H H F P Y M B I P D S U
U O D T S H E L D H X E I
L T R L A V U I X A Y Y O
R I U K E B S N X R T E A
Y N S I S C B D Z I E F K
M A L T I O V A P S H A W
K E L P E F F K S E P Z J
B R L C I N R G Z E O R V
X E N A M F O N O S R L K
S I N F U L D R I D P J E
H C A E T O Y G Z V V Y D
H Q U Q G P N W M J Z W D
W I P Y O S D Z P M Z Y P

Find these words from the Gospel passage.

BELIEVE	BLIND	CLAY
DISCIPLE	EYES	GOD
LISTEN	PHARISEES	PROPHET
SABBATH	SIGNS	SINFUL
SON OF MAN	TEACH	WORKS OF GOD

Disciple's Reflection & Questions of the Week

*Fourth Sunday of Lent
3/2/2008*

*John 9:1 – 41
Faith-Sharing
Questions of the Week*



Our Lady of the Assumption

435 Berkeley Ave.
Claremont, CA

www.olaclaremont.org

Call to Prayer

We begin by calling upon God:

**In the Name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the
Holy Spirit, Amen.**

*We then pause for a moment to listen with
our hearts to this week's Gospel passage...*

The Word of God: *John 9:1-41*

The Gospel according to John

As Jesus passed by he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him. We have to do the works of the one who sent me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

When he said this he spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and he smeared the clay on his eyes, and said to him, "Go wash in the Pool of Siloam" – which means Sent. So he went and washed, and came back able to see. His neighbors and those who had seen him earlier as a beggar said, "Isn't this the one who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is," but others said, "No, he just looks like him."

He said, "I am." So they said to him, "How were your eyes opened?" He replied, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and told me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went there and washed and was able to see." And they said to him "Where is he?" He said, "I don't know."

They brought the one who was once blind to the Pharisees. So then the Pharisees asked how he was able to see. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and now I can see." So some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, because he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a sinful man do such signs?" And there was division among them.

So they said to the blind man again, "What do you have to say about him, since he opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

Now the Jews did not believe that he had been blind and gained his sight until they summoned the parents of the one who had gained his sight. They asked them, "Is this your Son who was born blind? How does he now see?" His parents answered and said, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. We do not know how he sees now, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him, he is of age; he can speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone acknowledged him as the Christ, he would be expelled from the synagogue. For this reason his parents said, "He is of age, question him."

So a second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give God the praise! We know that this man is a sinner." He replied, "If he is a sinner, I do not know. One thing I do know is that I was blind and now I see." So they said to him "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too?"

They ridiculed him and said, "You are that man's disciple; we are disciples of Moses! We know that God spoke to Moses but we do not know where this man is from." The man answered and said to them, "This is what is so amazing, that you do not know where he is from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if one is devout and does his will, he listens to him. It is unheard of that anyone ever opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he would not be able to do anything." They answered him and said "You were born totally in sin and you are trying to teach us?" Then they threw him out.

When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered and said to him, "Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "I do believe, Lord," and he worshipped him.

Then Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see might see and those who do see might become blind." Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you are saying, 'We see,' so your sin remains."

The Gospel of the Lord

Faith Sharing

Questions of the Week

- Do I allow myself to be "blind" to the pain and suffering in my family, church, or workplace?
- Do I regularly take time to sit and be quiet (like the blind man) so that God can come to me?
- Am I like the Pharisees, obeying the letter of the law, while ignoring the spirit of love and compassion that Jesus wishes us to share with one another?

Closing Prayer

Father of Peace,

We are joyful in your Word, your Son Jesus Christ, who reconciles us to you. Let us hasten towards Easter with the eagerness of faith and love. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever,

Amen.

Fourth Sunday of Lent