

March 25-26, 2017
Fourth Sunday of Lent

Samuel 16:1-13

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41

All too often we see either what we WANT to see or what we are pre-disposed to see. An example might be a photograph of a beautiful sunset taken by a friend...a friend who ONLY sees the sunset that he/she set-out to snap...and we, not as interested in the sunset, quickly see the assorted other details captured in the same picture that might be quite surprising or amusing. On a more heart-wrenching level we hear stories of parents who 'don't want to see their son or daughter's drug addiction or self-abuse' and come up with myriad excuses to explain away what others clearly see for what it truly is. As we cross the midway point of Lent, this weekend's Gospel selection of the 'man born blind' (and healed by Jesus) reminds us that an attribute of our relationship with Jesus is that the more we associate with Jesus (building a spiritual relationship) the better we are able to see more clearly, to discern between good and evil...like when to say NO to that one extra alcoholic drink that might cost us \$10,000 in DUI expenditures, not to mention the potential trauma of accidental deaths. Opening ourselves to allowing Jesus to CURE our blindness is not as easy as it might sound...many of us want to remain BLIND...we do not want to see things any differently than we want them to be...because seeing things differently can mean a lot of work reorganizing our mind, heart and soul to accommodate new realities. For example, within our present political realities, the Church's long-standing embrace of seeing ALL PEOPLE as images of God deserving of respect, compassion and understanding does not sit well with those who see the world through eyes/hearts of US vs. THEM...a non-Catholic/non-Christian vision fed by fear, misunderstanding and exclusivity. By the way, these last five lines were sort of a 'vision/reality check'...what was YOUR automatic response in reading those last lines? This Lent, if Jesus invites us, through his grace, to see the world differently, what is OUR RESPONSE? Do we want to see as Jesus sees.....or do we want to continue to see things only as we have always seen them?

Thank you for sharing this first weekend of Spring with our Santa Clara community. Next weekend many of our High School Youth are on their Confirmation Retreat, please keep them in your prayers. You might wish to mark your calendars for our **Lenten Penance Service on Tuesday, April 4th at 7pm**...eight of us clergy types will be available for your quick and thorough interior cleansing before Easter. With Easter weekend only three weeks distant **we are starting to gather our DONATIONS of AZALEA TREES** by which to make our Church bloom with color for the Resurrection. Again, COSTCO is our dealer of preference (for cost, size and color variety)....but any AZALEA TREES will do...please drop them off on the tables in the hallway and THANK YOU for your generosity. Lastly , **Tickets for our annual Women's Tea are on sale this weekend...(they sell out quickly)**...please don't delay in reserving your seats. As you relish the crisp brightness of Spring, please know that you are loved. FKB