

February 27, 2022
8th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sir 27:4-7
Ps 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16
1 Cor 15:54-58
Lk 6:39-45

HEAL OUR BLINDNESS, LORD!

Would you allow a blind person to drive your car and you seat as a passenger? Obviously, we will not! To do so would be disastrous. To do so would be courting danger for all. The right disposition is to get a driver with good vision and reflexes to mitigate possible disaster.

In today's gospel proclaimed the Lord Jesus reminds us that in living/practicing our Christian faith we cannot allow to have blind guides. **Why?** It is simply because doing so will usher us into the great abyss/chasm. It will only lead us into misery and disaster. As **Proverbs 29:18** says: **"Without vision people perish!"**

The Lord Jesus would not want us to perish. He does not want us to live in the dark. He does not want to see our lives wasted into nothingness. Rather, he wants us to flourish/thrive. He wants to see us in his light. Thus, he offers himself to us, not only to heal us from our 'blindness,' but to guide us in bearing fruits that will last.

The **first step** in embracing the Lord Jesus' offer to guide and heal us is **to accept that we have our own 'blind spots.'** Denying that we are not blind will not help the Lord Jesus, our Great Physician, to guide and heal us.

Come to think of it - **how can a sick person be healed when he denies that he is sick?** No matter how good the doctor is, when the person is in denial of his illness and will not take the medicine prescribe for him, then expect for the worst and not for the better. This is also true in our spiritual life. And so we ask ourselves, **"Do we humbly admit that we have 'blind spots' the Lord Jesus needs to heal so we can have life in abundance?"**

Allow me to mention some of the common 'blind spots' or 'blindness' we are suffering from.

1. We are blind when we are quick to judge harshly our brothers and sisters without even knowing the whole story.
2. We are blind when all we count are the things we don't have and forget the things we have.
3. We are blind when we brush off the urgent call to evangelize/catechize our children.

4. We are blind when we ignore the cry of the poor.
5. We are blind when we keep our focus on 'I, Me, and Myself.'
6. We are blind when our service is deeply rooted on making ourselves bigger and never about our love for the Lord Jesus.
7. We are blind when we keep silent in the midst of 'fake news' or distortion of truth.
8. We are blind when we look at ourselves as 'superior' and the rest are 'inferior.' *(I would like to suggest that you try to compare yourself, not with others, but with God. Certainly, you will be humbled. When you are on the brink of 'blowing your own horn,' try to ask this question: **Am I as good as God?**)*
9. We are blind when we give the cold shoulder to the importance of on-going faith formation.
10. We are blind when we insist on regarding stewardship as raising money and not about raising Catholic Christian disciples.
11. We are blind when we allow fear to engulf our hearts instead of hope and trust in the Lord Jesus.
12. We are blind when we are still driven by greed, not generosity.
13. We are blind when we treat others differently due to the color of their skins.
14. We are blind when we fail to be grateful to God every day.
15. We are blind when we dichotomize our faith-life: Catholic Christians on Sundays and pagan the rest of the week.

With these 'blind spots' or 'blindness' we are suffering from, **is it still possible for our vision to be restored?**

St. Paul, the author of the 2nd reading that we have heard, was blind on who Jesus is prior to his conversion. However, his Damascus experience changed everything. His eyes were opened. He was able to see the love, compassion, and power of the Lord Jesus. Thus, St. Paul was transformed from being a persecutor to protector of Christians. His journey was a testament that the Lord Jesus can restore the vision of his people.

After accepting with humility that we have 'blind spots,' St. Paul's conversion story ushers us to the **second step** towards the healing process, that is, **openness to what the Lord Jesus wants from us and for us**. It means letting him to take us by the hand and allow him to administer his healing process.

Here in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist our Lord Jesus, our Great Physician, is always offering prescriptions to heal our 'blind spots.' The challenge for us, his patients, is to take his prescriptions faithfully so we can be free from all the things that blocks our vision.

A couple of days from now we will be entering the Season of Lent. It would be nice to use that time given to us to continue reflecting on our 'blind spots' and regularly approach the Lord Jesus to heal us. If we do, our Easter this year will surely be brighter for we will clearly see him as our Savior and Lord.

In this Mass, we ask the Lord Jesus to open our eyes that we may clearly see the wonders/miracles he is doing every day.

God bless and stay safe!