

Monday 33rd Week Ordinary Time 2015
November 16, 2015
St. Agnes Church

St Luke would be pleased that if in response to his words about Jesus' life and ministry, we would fall to our knees as pray: "Lord, give me the sight of faith. Open my eyes that I might see you, recognize who you are, and that I might see the way to follow in your footsteps."

We are deluding ourselves if we believe that just because we have eyes that physically work, we can see. The Pharisees and scribes had eyes, but they couldn't see. Our eyes can lead us just as easily to sin as to salvation. And we are short-changing ourselves if we have settled, i.e., have become satisfied that we've seen everything we need to see when it comes to our faith in Jesus Christ.

I would surmise that all of us, when that day comes where we see God as He is, we expect to see a human form with human qualities. This expectation is understandable, and it's not wrong, per se, but it is limited to and restricted by our human experience. In this life such an understanding helps us draw close to God. But God is mystery, vague and unattainable, far beyond our human comprehension. There is no doubt we will be overwhelmed with awe at our moment of saving encounter, the joy and peace and wonder we feel will exceed anything and everything. The holiness of God will, to use a common expression, "blow our minds". Nothing we see in this world will prepare us for what we see in the next.

One of the interesting aspects of sight is perspective. If I see a mountain from 10 miles away, I can see it's snow-capped peak, it's form and shape. I can see contrast between light and dark but not much else. If I see the same mountain while standing at its base I can't see its peak but I can see vegetation, outcroppings of rock, and maybe even a worn path that will eventually bring me to the summit.

When it comes to the sight of faith there are countless perspectives as far as seeing Jesus Christ. His truth is like a mountain rising into the heavens. Depending on where we are standing at any given time, what we see will change.

The truth of human nature is that even with 20X20 vision it is possible to lose sight of what is important, of what has value, lose sight of our desired goal, lose sight of our purpose/mission, lose sight of life's finish line. It is also possible that we can become so fixed on what is without, we lose sight of what is within. The fingerprint of God is to be found on the soul of every human being.

Self-imposed blindness is also a possibility. We ignore, remain oblivious to, certain realities. Sight brings knowledge. Knowledge brings understanding. Understanding brings responsibility. And sometimes I would rather not assume more responsibility.

"Bless me, O Lord, with eyes of faith....that I might see this world as you see this world...."

with mercy and with love. Amen!”