

LIVING FAITH

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT



ROMAN CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. JOHN'S



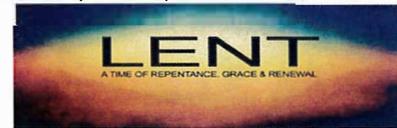
GOD'S WORD FOR TODAY

John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' Some were saying, 'It is he.' Others were saying, 'No, but it is someone like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.'

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.' Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?' And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.' He said, 'He is a prophet.' They answered him, 'You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?' And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' He answered, 'And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said to him, 'You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.' He said, 'Lord, I believe.' And he worshipped him.



REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL

Have you ever been blind? Many of us have actually had periods when one or both eyes were injured, or covered with a bandage, or when we've walked in a dark place without benefit of light, trying to feel our way. This can be terrifying. We can feel lost, disoriented, and alone.

There are many ways to be "blind." The physical eyes with through which we look out on our world are not the only eyes we have. God has given our hearts and our souls "eyes," too. When we see people with the eyes of our hearts, we see differently. You know that when you love somebody, you see beauty and goodness, potential and possibility in them. You see things that others might miss, because they gaze upon your loved one with only the eyes in their heads. In some ways, the best reflection that we have of God's loving gaze is the gaze of a parent.

God sees us as a parent might, not with physical eyes, but with eyes of love, mercy, and hope. In this Gospel, Jesus challenges us to see other people with God's "eyes," and to gaze on them with love, mercy and hope. When we look at people with the eyes of God, they become beautiful.

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OPENING THE EYES OF THE BLIND

A FAMILY ACTIVITY

Love, Mercy and Hope: A family activity for this week.

Take some time to reflect on current happenings in your world, either personal, local, regional or international. Discuss as a family where do you see God present in each event. How can you individually and as a family be a sign of God's Presence to each event you speak about? Write your ideas next to each event.

God's Love

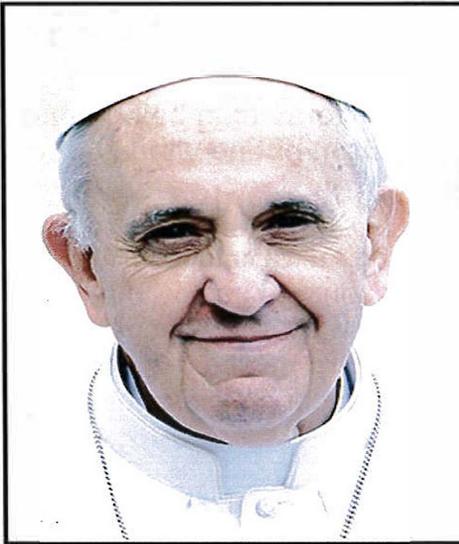


God's Mercy



God's Hope





You pray for the hungry. Then you feed them. That's how prayer works.

— Pope Francis —

AZ QUOTES

YOU ASKED...

Where was Archbishop Currie last week?

Last week, Archbishop Currie was in Rome. All nine Roman Catholic bishops of Atlantic Canada travelled to Rome for the “ad limina” visit.

What’s an “ad limina” visit? What happens at such a visit?

In the Roman Catholic Church, a **quinquennial visit ad limina apostolorum**, or simply an *ad limina* visit, is an obligation of residential diocesan bishops and certain prelates with territorial jurisdiction (such as territorial abbots). Every five years (the Latin word for “five years” is *quinquennia*), these bishops and abbots must visit the tombs of Saints Peter and Paul, and meet with the pope and various offices of the Vatican. Part of their work in Rome is to report on the state of their diocese or prelatures.

Did Archbishop Currie have to give a report about the Archdiocese of St. John’s?

Yes! Back in the Fall, Archbishop Currie had to prepare a long report. The purpose of the report, called the “*quinquennial report*,” is to give Pope Francis and his staff, the Roman Curia, a picture of what this Archdiocese is like and tell them a bit about our joys and hopes and successes, as well our sorrows and challenges.

So, did Archbishop Currie actually visit with Pope Francis?

Yes! He and the other bishops of Atlantic Canada met as a group with Pope Francis. The meeting lasted over an hour. Imagine how inspiring that was! In a later issue of *Living Faith*, we’ll ask Archbishop Currie to write about his visit with Pope Francis. So stay tuned!

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HEALING AND CURING IS THERE A DIFFERENCE?

Have you ever thought about this question? Is “healing” the same thing as “curing”? Let’s look at this a little further.

Curing is what medical science attempts to do through medication, treatment and external intervention. It usually is the result of a series of treatments that hopefully lead to an event - the absence of disease.

Healing is more of an internal process. Healing restores attitude and perspective. Healing can apply to the body, mind and spirit. There are lots of hurts that happen to us in life that don’t require a cure, but *do* cry out for healing. A person can actually be healed without being cured!

A MOTHER REFLECTS

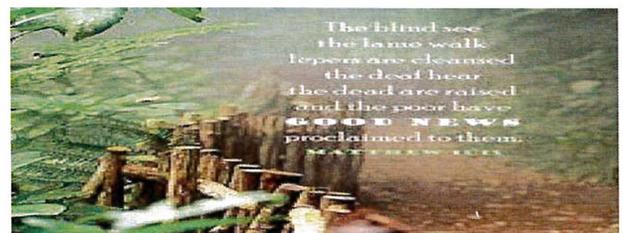
“The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision.”

Sight is something I always took for granted until our son was born with a genetic eye disease 29 years ago. After his birth, I went through a myriad of emotions- shock, bitterness, anger, helplessness and, finally, acceptance.

For me staying positive and providing every opportunity possible for Stephen was paramount. I prayed daily for guidance and healing. It was heartwrenching to watch your child try all the things that were so much a part of his young life- soccer, hockey, skating and to discover that he wasn’t able to do any of them.

It was so important to make sure he didn’t feel sorry for himself, and to use some of his gifts such as humour and determination to help him cope with the daily struggles. I kept encouraging him to try new things. Eventually he discovered the world of music, and this opened all sorts of opportunities and added such joy to his life and ours.

The struggles, disappointments and daily frustrations fashioned Stephen into a strong, determined, generous young man who lives his life by the motto: “The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision. - *Elaine Aylward*”



Thank you to Elaine Aylward for her reflection and sharing.