

“Lord, I want to see”

1. **The Gospel today gives us a model of how we should turn to the Lord and ask for His help.** This applies to us both as individuals and as a community of Faith. As the blind man cried out so should we, *“Jesus, son of David, have pity on me.”* **The first step** to receiving the graces God wants to give us - to be holy, to turn away from sin, to help us in our daily struggles - is to acknowledge humbly that we need His help. Like the people surrounding the blind man, there will always be people who tell us not to cry out to the Lord, but to be quiet. Do we allow others to do that to us? Or do we persist in our Faith despite outward opposition? The Catholic Church is often criticized for taking a strong stand on moral and spiritual issues, *be it on defense of human life, particularly the life of the unborn children and the terminally ill from the evils of abortion and euthanasia, to the call to always be open to the gift of human life in marriage by rejecting the contraceptive and sterilization mentality of our culture, to the defense of marriage between one man and one woman, to standing up for the care of immigrants and the homeless and all those rejected and marginalized by our society - while at the same time saying we need to have good laws and order (like US immigration laws need to be reformed to prevent chaos), so that our country is safe - to preaching and witnessing against a culture of violence.* In the face of all this opposition and a culture often opposed to the beauty of our Catholic faith we need to both pray and take action to witness to our Catholic faith in a good and holy way.
2. **There is always a temptation to give up or give in if we face opposition.** To take the easy way out is just *“to go along to get along”*, and to give into human respect. But where will that get us in regard to our eternal destiny to be with God - which will only come about if we are faithful to the Lord and His teaching - made known to us through our Catholic faith in this life? **In the end we will be seen as foolish and possibly lose our souls if we denied our Faith in serious matters.** That is where **prayer** comes in. Prayer or dialog with God is the means both to obtain divine favor, but also the strength we need to persevere in the face of opposition. The blind man, despite others, today kept calling out to Jesus, and Jesus eventually heard him, and

said to him, “*What do you want me to do for you?*” And he replied, “*Master, I want to see.*” **Do we want to see** - to see things as God does rather than as the world does? To live in the Truth which alone will set us free? Living in God’s truth leads to the Cross in this world, but it will also lead to the Resurrection someday, and a joy and peace beyond imagining! But right now on earth we have to fight the good fight, and to do that we first **need to pray for the courage to live our faith fully and to always witness in the public sphere to the truth of our Catholic faith with integrity.**

3. Jesus says to the blind man, “***Go on your way, your faith has saved you.***” Then the Gospel says, “*Immediately he received his sight, and followed Him on the way.*” **To follow Jesus on the way** means to live Jesus’s new life and to turn away from **those ways of the world which are at odds with the ways of God.** To receive our sight means that both our inward and outward blindness are healed by the Lord. Most people are not blind outwardly – but tragically because of sin we are often spiritually blind in our soul, in our minds, and hearts. **Only by rooting our lives in the Lord can that blindness be lifted over time.** We must never lose heart when combating the power of evil and sin in our own lives or in the life of our country. **The spiritual victory is only won by patience and humility.** And it is by perseverance in Faith, generosity in spirit, regularly and humbly acknowledging our sins in the Sacrament of Confession, and by the regular reverent reception of Holy Communion that we eventually gain victory over the world, the flesh and the devil. To acknowledge that we need God’s help is the first step as the blind man shows us today. There is someone else who can show us how to love the Lord and respond to Him in the right way, and that is **our Blessed Mother Mary**, whose motto is: *Let it be done accord to thy Word, O’ Lord*, as we know from the event of the Annunciation. In the month of October, the Church honors Mary. This is also why we must daily pray the Holy Rosary in a spirit of gratitude and for the conversion of hardened sinners. Remember the Virgin Mary is the patroness of our country; let’s ask her to intercede for each of us and our country to turn more to the Lord and receive His healing in all the areas of life we need healing in, as individuals and as a nation. And through her prayers may we live and witness to our Catholic faith with ever more faithfulness. God bless you.