

From the Pastor's Office

4th Sunday of Lent

Like lots of people, I love a good courtyard drama. Give me lots of plot. Give me lots of twists and turns. Because I love great drama I know terrible drama when I see it. The story of the Curing of the Blind Man is one of these. In some ancient office of the Pharisees' party, they are at their morning briefing and someone identifies Jesus of Nazareth as public enemy #1. Go out and condemn him every which way you can. Deny everything. Do not trust what he says. Do not believe the evidence of your eyes. If you come upon a blind man who claims that Jesus gave him the gift of sight, it never happened. Force his parents to recant. Make them swear that he was never blind to begin with. Confuse everyone. Create a smokescreen of confusion.



How on earth are we to proceed? Who are we to believe? Clearly, we have to rise above the propaganda and find the truth. The truth is testified by the Blind Man alone. "All I know is that I was blind and now I can see." Is that the truth or is it not? People claim miracles to us all the time. Who are we to doubt them? This is something between them and Jesus. I am happy for them. The rest really is none of my business. In the world of political campaigning, there are constant assertions and denials. People make claims and people refute those claims. It all becomes confusing. What are we to do? We are to rise above the clouds and seek the essential truths. What is it I know? "All I know is this..." I feel sorry for the Blind Man. To receive your sight again must be a wonderful life-changing event in anyone's life. There is no celebration. Instead, there is a climate of fear. According to the Biblical way of thinking our children will suffer because of the sins of their parents. To see their son given his sight back again must have brought great joy to his parents. The Lord God is no longer angry with us. He doesn't want to punish us anymore with this blindness. Yet, they are not allowed to celebrate. They are cut off from the mercy of God by the Pharisees. The Mafia says that it is nothing personal, only business. It makes me sad to think that we have to become pawns in other people's games. This is my life. This is my miracle. This is my great joy. You don't get to take that away from me.

With love,
Fr. Pat