

From the PASTOR'S DESK



Light of the World

As the season of Lent unfolds, we begin to see the clouds that gather around Jesus and how the darkness of His suffering and death increases. In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus say that Night is coming. He also says that while I am in the world, I am the light of the world. The effects of the light we are told in the second reading are seen in every kind of goodness, right living, and truth.

Until Christ's total radiance is definitively revealed, we live in a time when drifting clouds can hide the sun. The sun is there unfailingly every day, but sometimes, we go forward with less clarity and stumbling feet. Yet, our hope is grounded in God's gift to us.

Not everyone rejoiced at the blind man's healing. He was a beggar, a marginalized person with no credibility. Once healed, he was not believed by everyone and was driven away. For some, the man who had always been a nobody had to be kept in his place. Jesus took another initiative. When He heard that the people had driven away the formerly blind man, He went and found him. There was more light to be given to the man, the light of faith. The giving of natural sight was a sign. The one who is light is also love.

The healing is done by Jesus spitting on the ground, making a paste with the saliva, and smearing it on the man's eyes. It is an extremely tactile process described in detail. This is not love from a distance. After that, far from wanting to drive the cured man away, Jesus goes to find him. Through light and love, Jesus is restructuring our damaged humanity, our communion with God and each other.

We often speak about coming to understand something we had not understood before as coming to see. Now I see can mean now I understand. The cured man was brought to see not just the natural world, but also to see and share in the world being transformed in Jesus Christ.

Fr. Hernan Cely

