

HOMILY IV SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A - LEATARE
HE WAS BORN BLIND SO THAT GOD'S WORK MIGHT BE REVEALD

Brothers and sisters... There is something that quietly runs through all the readings of today... and it has to do; **with the way we look...**

Because we human beings often look **very quickly... very superficially...** sometimes we stay with what impresses us... with what seems stronger... **with what fits better with our expectations...**

And without realizing it... We do the same with the people around us... Sometimes we reduce someone **to a label... to a mistake... to a story we heard... to an impression we once had...**

Just like the disciples of Jesus... who see this man and immediately ask... **Who was responsible for this?**

It's almost an automatic reaction... to look for an explanation... to look for someone to blame... **to look for a reason for what we don't understand...**

But God looks in a different way... God sees more deeply... God doesn't stay on the surface... or on what others notice first... **God looks at the heart...**

And Jesus breaks completely that way of thinking... He doesn't stop to look for someone to blame... He stops to look at the person...

And there is something very interesting in this Gospel... Throughout the whole story, many people speak about this man... **They talk about his problem... they talk about his story... they discuss who was responsible...** But almost no one speaks with him... **Jesus does!**

Jesus comes close... He looks at him... and He treats him as a person... not as a problem...

And here we find a very simple detail... and a deeply revealing one...

Saint John tells us that Jesus mixes mud with His saliva and puts it on the man's eyes... A small gesture... and yet it changes everything...

That which was so common... the mud of the earth... what everyone walks on...

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What seems simple, or even dirty... Jesus uses it, to open the eyes of someone who had never seen before...

It's as if He were telling us... **God can transform what is ordinary... what is simple... what seems to have no value... into something that brings light and life...**

My dear friends... little by little, this man's life begins to open to something new...

And in the same way, our hearts can open when we learn to look with the eyes of God...

And now... if we continue looking at this scene carefully... we discover something else...

Those who were convinced they could see perfectly... are the ones **who finally show the real blindness...**

Because the deepest blindness isn't always in the eyes... many times it's in the heart...

When we think **we already know everything about others... when we judge too quickly... when we close our hearts before truly looking...** Then we also begin to walk a little in the dark...

That is why this Gospel is so meaningful in the middle of Lent... Because Lent is a time to allow God to transform the way we look... **To look at others with more patience...** to look at people's stories with more compassion... **to look even at our own life with more hope...**

Sometimes we think the great miracle would be to see more things... But the real miracle is to learn how to see better...

How beautiful it would be if today, in the silence of our hearts, we could say...

Lord... heal my way of seeing... teach me to see others as You see them... teach me not to stay on the surface... teach me to discover the heart...

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My dear friends... that is also the quiet joy of this Sunday of Laetare... that Christ continues to pass through our lives... and He continues to open our eyes... so that little by little we may learn to see the world... **with the same way of seeing that God has...**

May we also have this experience... Because when the light of faith enters our life... something begins to change... **Not only do we see the world in a different way...** we also begin to see ourselves with a new light.

Fr. Moices Rafael C.