

March 10, 2019 - The Blind Leading the Blind

"Can a blind person guide a blind person?" This is the question that Jesus is asking each of us (Luke 6:39). Jesus gives his own answer: "**Will not both fall into a pit?**" When I asked some of our children at Mass last Sunday, they all answered: **Yes!** A blind can lead a blind! They are not totally wrong; we know that with a cane, many blind persons can find their way alone... so they might also guide a blind person that would hold them by the shoulder. But Jesus talks to us about a different blindness. He talks about **spiritual blindness!**

All of us are Spiritually Blind. We are all sinners. How can a sinner be the spiritual guide to another sinner? He cannot do it alone. He can do it only if Jesus becomes the one in charge of leading/guiding. Jesus is our Spiritual Teacher. There is no other. So Jesus gives us much **hope** when he affirms, "**No disciple is superior to the teacher; but when fully trained, every disciple will be like his teacher**" (Luke 6:40). We are all called to be **disciples of Jesus!** To be a disciple of Jesus is to be a student of Jesus. It is a lifetime journey of reflection, prayer, and reading the Bible. There is always something new that Jesus can teach us. We will never be able to be totally like Jesus, who is **God!** But God wants all of us to have the desire to be a **saint**, a desire to be **holy!**

Jesus is more than a teacher. Jesus tells Lazarus's sister, Martha, "**I am the resurrection and the life... everyone who lives and believes in me will never die**" (John 11: 25-26). Jesus is the only way to the Father. There is no other way. He leads us to **eternal life!** We all want to go to Heaven. Heaven is to be with **God.** We all desire to have eternal life with **God.** Eternal life begins from the very beginning we are conceived! Our souls never die! This is our belief! The great promise from God is fulfilled for each one of us when **Jesus dies for our sins on the cross**, and then **when he rises from the dead**, the promise of our own resurrection.

In the same way we reflected on the ending of Jesus' Powerful Sermon on the Plain last Sunday (Luke 6:39-45), we also heard the amazing end of St Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians (15:54-58), a beautiful **Hymn of Victory:** St Paul focuses on the meaning of the **death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.** By his own death on the Cross, Jesus is victorious over death, over spiritual death once for all. No more death: "Death is swallowed up in victory...Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." God loves us so much that he let His Only Son die for us on a Cross so as to redeem all our sins. Then Jesus rises from the dead three days later. This is what we celebrate at Easter, this is what we celebrate at each Mass: The Passion, Death and Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ! This is when we, mortals, become "clothed with immortality" (eternal life). Do we believe that Jesus died for us, for our sins? Do we believe that Jesus rose from death, giving us hope in eternal life with Him?

We were reminded when receiving the **ashes** on our foreheads last Wednesday to "**Repent and believe in the Gospel!**" May **Jesus be our guide** to help us turn to God in repentance of our sins. May Jesus help our **conversion, our change** in daily life through **trusting in him**, believing in the **good news** of the **Gospel.** Let us pray to the Holy Spirit that together during this **Lent**, we will be able to **encounter Christ** as we deepen our understanding of the Mass and the Eucharist!

One in Christ,
Fr. Alain