

Reflection for the Fourth Sunday of Lent

Where there is indifference, let me sow compassion

Sr. Agnes Bracken, DW

What does this really mean?

In Samuel, we read, “Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the Lord considers the heart.” If I consider what my heart is saying, what are the indifferences and lack of compassion I would see or what am I blind to? What are the indifferences I perpetuate in my everyday life? Is it towards the immigrant who speaks another language than mine or the person who is on the dole? How do I relate to those in my circle of relatives, friends, and work cohorts. Do I not see their value in a positive way but rather spread “false news”?

When we came into this life we were all blind in a physical way and have grown into the ability to see all the goodness around us that God has given us – our family, our friends, the stranger, our Faith and the earth we live on. Over the years, we have emerged into a person who now sees with our eyes, our minds, and hearts. Yet there are specks of blindness that remain in all of us. This lent calls each one to recognize the gifts we have received and ask to see more clearly where we are being led to grow more closely into the love of God and neighbor.

John also speaks of sight, light and darkness. This light is the light of Faith. But how can a person who is living in fear, lack of safety, see a way out of the darkness of poverty and oppression. How do I respond to this awareness of people in need? I may not be able to set up a program for groups of people but I can speak out in the public forum for programs to assist others in need. On a more personal, level I can reflect on how I treat others. Do I support them and give them hope that I understand their situation or do I spread negative news about someone who has different views or values than mine?

As we go forward, “Avante,” this Spring what in my blindness do I need to be healed of? Am I stuck in the past ways of thinking, speaking, and acting? Or am I invited to do something new – to spring forward?

I pray that on this day and always I will strive, O my God to live with gratitude for all your gifts to me and to offer you a heart filled with praise. You have loved me with your peace, your strength, and your compassion. May I pass on to others in like manner what has been passed on to me.

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