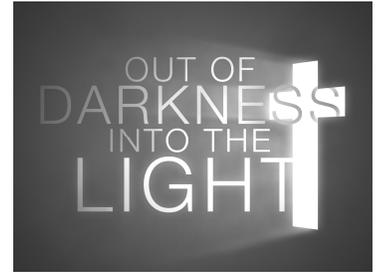


## *From the Desk of Sr. Barbara*

### The Light of Truth

Our Lenten journey continues. The Church sets these forty days aside each year as a time consecrated to preparation for the renewal of our baptismal covenant with God and God's People at Easter. The focus on this 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday is on the passage to be made *from darkness to light*. Today's gospel is especially fascinating. It contains not one story, but two - a story within a story. The heart of the matter is about an encounter with Christ and the response of those who hear it.



*The Encounter:* Jesus is passing by. He sees a man born blind. Looking deeper he sees a child of God living in total darkness. Notice, the blind man asks for nothing. Jesus does not wait to be asked. He stops and acts. Having made a muddy mixture of soil and saliva, he rubs it on the man's eyes and tells him what he has to do. The man goes and washes in the pool of Siloam and his sight is restored. But, that's not the end of the story. After the mayhem caused by the huge discussion that followed his cure, he is thrown out of the assembly. Jesus seeks him out a second time: *Do you believe in the Son of Man?* Eager but unable to say "yes", the man responds, *Who is he?* Jesus replies. *It is I who am speaking with you.* Doubly blessed, this man has received not only his sight, but also the gift of faith. Amazed, he declares, *I do believe*, and falls to his knees in worship



*The Response:* We might be tempted to see the encounter between Jesus and a blind man as the whole story. Take another look. Picture the crowd as an icon of humanity in every age. Some see the man cured as the beggar they knew, their *neighbor*. Others, confused and conflicted, deny the reality before them saying, *he only looks like him*. Still others stay with a question: *How can a sinful man do such signs?* They seek out the Pharisees, solid religious men, acknowledged leaders in the community. They know the scriptures and the law, but are blinded by their judgment on what God does and does not allow. Jesus is clearly not a man of God because he does not keep the Sabbath. The only thing to do is to get rid of the evidence. They throw the man out and feel justified. The Word of God is alive. It invites us to enter the story. Take your place in that crowd. With whom are you standing?



Our Lenten Journey moves on relentlessly towards Easter. Today, St. Paul reminds us: *Once you were darkness, now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of the light (Eph. 5)*. The call: to intensify our resistance to darkness, be part of the struggle of humanity against evil in all its forms, sin, violence, hatred of others and in the struggle against your own particular demons. Live in the light, become light, manifest it in every kind of goodness – compassionate love, truth, peace. Seek Christ's strength and the healing you need. Probe the depths of your being where the Spirit of God waits to empower your response.

We are called to be Light to the world, to continue Jesus' mission on earth. As you prepare for the

renewal of your baptismal covenant with Christ this Easter, answer Jesus' question to the blind man. *Do you believe in the Son of Man?* For, as you believe, so shall you live. Your response could make this Easter truly an *amazing grace*.

### **Holy Week and Easter Schedule**

For the full Holy Week and Easter Schedule please see next week's bulletin or visit our website at [www.infantjesus.org](http://www.infantjesus.org)



*Barbara O'Dea, DW*