

Homily Summary - 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Main Themes:

- **Faith, Perseverance, and Healing:** Bartimaeus exemplifies the power of faith and persistence. Despite opposition, he calls out to Jesus, trusting in His ability to heal and restore (Mark 10:47).
- **Spiritual Blindness and the Need for Sight:** Bartimaeus' blindness represents the areas of spiritual blindness we all have, such as pride or doubt, which only Christ can heal. We are invited to turn to Jesus for spiritual vision and transformation.
- **God's Compassion:** Jesus responds to Bartimaeus with mercy, asking, "What do you want me to do for you?" (Mark 10:51). God's love reaches out to each one of us in our need, inviting us to confidently bring our needs to Him.

Key Scripture Passages:

- *Mark 10:47-52:* Bartimaeus' cry for mercy and Jesus' compassionate response demonstrates the transformative power of faith and trust in God.
- *Jeremiah 31:8-9:* God gathers His people from their place of exile and promises guidance, mercy, and protection.
- *Psalms 126:5-6:* "Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy." God's kindness brings joy and restoration, even amid life's challenges.

Catechism of the Catholic Church:

- **CCC 2616:** Jesus responds to the faith of those who reach out to Him in their need, as He did with Bartimaeus.
- **CCC 2091-2092:** Faith includes both trusting in God's power and recognizing our need for His mercy and grace.
- **CCC 1846:** God's mercy is available to all who seek it, especially in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, where we experience healing and the grace to see with new spiritual eyes.

Bartimaeus as a Model of Faith and Perseverance:

- Bartimaeus' persistence challenges us to ask ourselves: "Is there something I need to bring to Jesus with faith and trust?" When we, like Bartimaeus, call upon God and ask for His help, we open ourselves to His healing and transformation.
- Even when faced with discouragement, Bartimaeus called out louder, demonstrating resilience and deep faith. Are there ways we might be "blind" in our own lives, failing to see where God is leading or the needs of others?

Practical Reflection on Spiritual Blindness and Conversion:

- Bartimaeus' healing reminds us to ask, "What areas of my life do I need God to restore?" We may need to seek God's perspective on relationships, work, or personal challenges.
- The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a powerful way to bring our "blind spots" to God, allowing Him to remove obstacles that prevent us from seeing and following Him fully.

Mary's Faith and Openness to God's Call:

- Our Blessed Mother, Mary, lived her life with eyes of faith. Her "yes" to God was a response to His call, just as Bartimaeus responded to Jesus with faith. Like Mary, we are invited to trust in God's mercy and say "yes" to His will.

Reflection Questions:

1. What are some ways we might be "blind" in our lives, just as Bartimaeus was before he encountered Jesus?
2. Is there something you would like to ask Jesus for today, trusting in His love and mercy?
3. How does faith help us when we face life's challenges or struggles?

Rap Summary: Faith gives us eyes to truly see,

Bartimaeus shows how bold faith can be.

God's love is with us, in dark and light,

Let's throw off our burdens, and walk in His sight.

With trust like Mary's, our "yes" is our guide,

Knowing in Christ, His mercy will provide.

Takeaway: Bartimaeus' encounter with Jesus calls us to faith, courage, and openness to God's love. Like

Bartimaeus, may we be ready to call on Jesus with faith and follow Him with new vision, trusting in His mercy and walking forward in love.

Reasons to come to Mass each weekend

Hebrews 10:24-25 - "And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Exodus 20:8 - "Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy."

Luke 22:19 - "Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'"

Acts 2:42 - "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

John 6:53-54 - "So Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day.'"

Psalms 122:1 - "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'"

Matthew 18:20 - "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Colossians 3:16 - "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God."

Additional resources to learn more about God and the Catholic faith

- Check out the resource list available on www.frmerkley.com
- Catholic Answers: <https://www.catholic.com/>
- Word on Fire: <https://www.wordonfire.org/>
- Formed: <https://formed.org/>
- The Coming Home Network: <https://chnetwork.org/>
- Catholic Exchange: <https://catholicexchange.com/>
- Dynamic Catholic: <https://dynamiccatholic.com/>
- The Augustine Institute: <https://augustineinstitute.org/>
- Ascension Press: <https://ascensionpress.com/>
- EWTN: <https://www.ewtn.com/>
- The Catholic Company: <https://www.catholiccompany.com/>
- Busted Halo: <https://bustedhalo.com/>
- CatholicCulture.org: <https://www.catholicculture.org/>
- The Thomistic Institute: <https://thomisticinstitute.org/>
- Ignatius Press: <https://www.ignatius.com/>
- Catholic Education Resource Center (CERC): <https://www.catholiceducation.org/>