

In these unprecedented times, we long for clearer vision. People want to know, what is going to happen next. We want to see clearly when the virus disruption will end. We can't even see with the naked eye the coronavirus which is shaking up the entire world.

The man born blind is contrasted with the spiritual leaders of his day who chose to remain blind to the goodness, authenticity, and healing power of Jesus. Their choice to adopt blindness is nothing new. The recent Gospel about Lazarus and the rich man made it clear that the rich person's inability to even be aware of poor Lazarus at his gate was the wealthy person's downfall. It is easy for us as well to be blind the people and circumstances of those around us. We remain unaware of the challenges and needs of those in our own homes, work sites, schools, churches, and communities. It is difficult for our compassion to extend to those around the globe suffering from poverty, war, oppression, violence and neglect.

Possibly our current, life-altering pandemic will help us to see better. To recognize how much we are interconnected. That we belong to each other. That we need one another to fully the people God calls us to be. Likely we will better see how we can be people of prayer and faith in our own homes. Maybe we will be more aware of those in our families, employment places, schools, and churches who need someone to care, to pay attention, to be sister or brother.

Many people look to us. They count on our Christian faith, our prayer, and especially our sense of hope. We know that God will get us through these times, especially if we stick together as best we can. Others may need our sense of humor, but certainly our abundance of compassion.

Let us ask the Spirit to improve our vision. Who needs us to be more watchful, more attentive, a family member, a neighbor, a schoolmate, another parishioner? God, help us to see, even the things and people who are more challenging.

Fr. Dave