

Today, in the Fourth Sunday of Lent —also called rose or “laetare” (rejoice) Sunday— all the liturgy invites us to experience a deep joy, a great exultation, because Easter is getting nearer. We see before our eyes the mystery of the battle between light and darkness. Christ is “the Light that enlightens every man”. This story about the man blind from birth brings to mind our own condition as baptized Christians. The pool of Siloam helps us understand just how much we need to be purified. What the evangelist really wants to describe is the process of faith. In the beginning of the story, all are blind – even those who think they can see; in the end, only one is cured and the rest are still blind. The blind man steps into the light when he confesses his faith: “I believe in you, Lord!”

Jesus is trying to open our eyes. Where are our blind spots? Do we have certain situations, like the Pharisees, where we refuse to believe despite what we are seeing?

The evangelist is trying to illustrate the various ways we human beings can refuse

to see. How many times have we not seen what is staring us in the face?

How hard it is for those who do not wish to see. How hard it is for those who think they can already see, those who want no other light but their own, those who don't know how to doubt or question! They cannot see, they do not want to see, they do not allow themselves to see. How can they be enlightened by the Light of the world? If we acknowledge our blindness, then Christ will enlighten us, little by little, until we reach the fullness of day in His divine presence.

We must live trying to "see" and "live as children of the light" as Saint Paul reminds us in his Letter to the Ephesians.

We must travel a long road of purification. We must shine light on all the dark places within us, and we must "clean" them by contact with the word of Jesus. He is the Light that overcomes all darkness, He conquers death, He guides and directs us, He communicates the truth, and He leads us to salvation and joy. This is what we celebrate at Easter. The true Light is God

himself, "unapproachable Light"; He is the "Sun that rises from on high."

In our own selves we experience a battle between two forces: Light and darkness. The victory of one over the other depends on us, on our response with his grace within us. How do you live this battle between good and evil within you?

During Lent we can take the time to examine our experiences that prevent us from seeing. God is calling us to see with God's eyes, not our human eyes in the first reading. We are being gently reminded to see people for who they are, not what they look like. What prevents from seeing all people as children of God? That's our common message this weekend: *But the Lord said to Samuel: "Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the Lord looks into the heart."* Our Lord always looks into the heart and helps bring the truth of people to light. He knows us very well, what our intentions are, our malice, sin failures not to judging us but to helps us and to lift us up with his merciful hands and say again: "Go now and leave your life of sin." Because Ultimately we are

who we are before God, that and nothing else! As Peter point it out in the bulletin.

In this world there are men, women, and children who are bringers of light. Their very presence gives light to all those around them, even when they do not realize it. They love and they show this love with their lives. Easter is getting near and the Lord wants to communicate us all the joy of Resurrection. Let us prepare ourselves to receive and celebrate it. «Go and wash» Jesus tells us... To wash in the purifying waters of the Sacrament of Penance! We shall find again the light and the joy and we shall better accomplish our best preparation for Easter; being a person full of light, full of virtues and good works. If you do good, you will be exposed to less danger and the Light will fill you always, even in moments of doubt.