

30th Sunday per Annum - B
Jeremias 31:7-9;
Hebrews 5:1-6;
Mark 10:46-52
Little Flower - 10/27/24

My Brothers and Sisters,

I want to thank Ken Ogorek for his reflections concerning the United Catholic Appeal.

In the course of his public ministry, Jesus performed many miracles of healing. The healing of Bartimaeus has always been one of my favorite miracles. One of the ways we pray the Scriptures is to read a passage and then imagine ourselves in the passage as though we are seeing and hearing everything that is happening or being said.

When I read this Gospel from that perspective, it seems to me that Bartimaeus' plea to Jesus is an impassioned plea. When Jesus asked him what he wanted Jesus to do for him, Bartimaeus responded, "*Master, I want to see.*"

However, today's Gospel is also a metaphor for spiritual blindness. In other words, Bartimaeus could equally have been asking Jesus to cure his spiritual blindness. Once Jesus cured his spiritual blindness as well as his physical blindness, he followed Jesus. When I was at St. Malachy, Sr. Edward Ann always talked to the 2nd graders about the necessity of seeing with eyes of faith and not just with our physical eyes. I would suggest we all suffer from spiritual blindness to some extent.

Reading this Gospel in light of Ken's remarks, it seems to me that the healing of Bartimaeus is also a metaphor for another kind of spiritual blindness. In other words, Bartimaeus could equally have been asking Jesus to cure his blindness to the needs of others. He could have been asking for eyes of compassion toward the needs of others. If you remember the story of Lazarus and the rich man, the sin of the rich man was not that he refused to help Lazarus. The sin was that he did not even see Lazarus on his door step.

Each year, through the United Catholic Appeal, we are invited to come together in solidarity to support and strengthen vital ministries and initiatives beyond the scope of our parish that transform lives across the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. This gives each of us the opportunity to be part of something greater. This effort would not be possible for our parish to do alone. But joining our brothers and sisters across the Archdiocese, it is indeed possible by us all coming together. You should be receiving the Appeal materials in the mail very soon. I encourage you to read about the great work that we accomplish together through the United Catholic Appeal and prayerfully consider how you can make a gift in gratitude for all the Lord's blessings, "United in the Eucharist."

My brothers and sisters, please try to see the needs of others with eyes of compassion, and please give generously to the United Catholic Appeal.