



PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY TO THE PONTIFICAL GOOD FRIDAY HOLY LAND COLLECTION

Fourth Sunday of Lent:

HAVE YOU SEEN THE LIGHT?

The Gospel story of Jesus' healing of the blind man from the ninth chapter of John contains important lessons for all of us. First, it demonstrates to us how much Jesus loves mankind and the special place He has in His Heart for those who are suffering. Second, it shows us how easy it was to get caught up in the details of this event and miss what was truly important. The Pharisees were so caught up in trying to dissect every part of this event that they missed the wonder of this miraculous healing. As a result, they were blind to the fact that Jesus is the light of the world (Jn 9:5).

Jesus' encounter with the blind man takes place in Jerusalem. The Lord had just left the temple area because the crowd was angered by His claims of divine authority. Today in Jerusalem and all throughout the Holy Land, there are many who continue to deny Jesus' claim to being "the light of the world" and still live in the darkness of ignorance and violence. The Christian minority that lives in the Holy Land knows that Christ is the light that "produces goodness and righteousness and truth" (Eph 5:9). But, the constant difficulty of their lives in trying to meet the basic necessities of food, shelter, education and health care makes it a daily challenge to "live as children of light" (Eph 5:8). So often a blind eye is turned toward the struggles that face these Palestinian Christian families as they are caught in the middle of the political, cultural and religious tensions and conflicts of the region.

As each of us moves through our Lenten journey, there are important questions we must continue to ask. Have I ever missed an encounter with Christ because I was too wrapped up in the secular details of my daily experiences? Have I found myself blind to His many miracles, such as the transubstantiation of the bread and wine into the Eucharist at Mass? Have I been tempted to judge others by their appearance and not by their heart (cf. 1 Sm 16:7b)? What habits or addictions do I have that keep me in the darkness of sin and slavery?

Have I been blind to the needs, challenges and sufferings of others?

One very special way that you can help meet the needs and bring the light of Christ to our suffering brothers and sisters in Christ is to contribute generously to the Pontifical Good Friday Collection that helps support the apostolates of the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land.

HELP FOR HOLY LAND CHRISTIANS

Franciscan Good
Friday Collection:
myfranciscan.org

Order of the Holy
Sepulchre of Jerusalem:
eohsjnorthcentral.org

Latin Patriarchate
of Jerusalem:
lpj.org



Excavation of ancient ruins around the Temple mount in Jerusalem