

Intro for 4:00 Children's Mass

Many years ago, my wife and I were on a long drive to Disneyland with our kids. We were not very far down Highway 5, when we heard a little voice from the back seat: "Are we there yet?" **excited** - "No we have a long way to go."

A little time passed and - "Are we there yet?" **bored** - "No, we're only half way there!" (- We tried to engage the kids together in games and stories to better pass the time.)

"Are there yet?" is a question that many kids ask on a long journey. When I was a kid, we asked it of my parents. Our kids asked it of my wife and me. You may have asked it of your parents. It is a sign of boredom and impatience on a journey; When we are anxious to arrive at a much more exciting destination.

Or Intro for 6:30 Teen Mass / Scrutinies Mass

Many years ago, before the days of GPS and cell phones, when I was new to this area, I drove from Pleasanton to an early morning meeting in Calaveras County, where I had never been before. When I got over the Altamont Pass, the pre-dawn winter tulle fog enveloped the roadway. I could barely see the car in front of me or see road signs of any kind. I thought I knew the way, but blinded in the foggy darkness, I got very lost. After struggling to find my way, I arrived late at my destination, anxious, frustrated and embarrassed.

My drive back home that day, however, was quite the opposite. In the bright sunshine I could see clearly as I drove through green rolling hills, admiring the scenery of orchards and vineyards. What a difference the daylight made in making my journey safe and pleasant.

As the Body of Christ, we are all now on a journey together. We travel through the desert of Lent towards Easter, but we are only half way there. Three (3½) weeks ago was Ash Wednesday. Three weeks from today is Easter Sunday. So, let's examine how our journey is going?

- ? Am I bored by it / impatient for it to be over? / lost or frustrated?
- ? Do I travel in the daylight, in the Light of Christ, so I see where I am going and stay on the road?
- ? Do I engage rightly with my fellow travelers? And with others I meet along the way?

**In the Gospel** as Jesus travels walking along, he meets a man who was blind since birth, and he heals him, **but** this is much **more than a healing story**. It is about living in the **light**, **seeing** the truth **and** **believing**.

Jesus proclaims in this Gospel

"I am the light of the world",

And later

"I came into this world for judgment,

So that those who do not see might see, and those who do see might become blind."

There are many characters in this Gospel

All were trying to "get by" in a society, in which religious practice & the synagogue were very important: The Gospel tells us how each of them responds to the truth of Christ, Which was evidenced by the blind man's healing.

We might each ask ourselves, "Who am I in this Gospel?"

As I try to “get by” in my life at home, at school at work with my friends.

- Like the Disciples, perhaps I judge others in their misfortune, and look to blame it on them.
- Like the blind man’s neighbors, I might deny or ignore someone when they are in need.
- Like his parents, maybe I watch out for myself alone, to the exclusion of others.
- Like the Pharisees to the blind man, I might treat someone with outrage.
- I might think I see things exactly right, when I am really blind to the truth.

Or like the blind man who was healed, I could be a faithful witness to Jesus, even the face of ridicule.

Jesus is the light that not only healed the blind man so he could physically see;

Jesus is the light that enabled him to see the truth of the Kingdom of God and to believe,

Jesus is the light who dispels darkness in my life, and heals blindness in me:

- So I can see something new or see it differently.
- Believe more fully the truth that He proclaims
- And live His truth with greater commitment.

He can open my eyes to contradictions between what I believe and how I act, so that I can:

- Change what I post on Facebook / and how I speak about others
- Consider the clothes I wear / the music I listen to / the websites I visit
- Stop my behaviors that offend others / Avoid the “friends” that lead me in the wrong direction.

I might think I have my little part of the world all figured out, and know exactly how to “get by” in life,

? But do I really see where I am going? In the light of His truth?

? So I can be honest with myself about myself? And then honest with God?

**Now is the time to consider all of these things as we continue our journey towards the glory of Easter**

**Re Scrutinies Mass**

Beginning last week, spread over three Sundays, we celebrate the Scrutinies with the Elect who prepare for the sacraments of initiation at Easter.

- They began the RCIA program months ago and have been formed in the faith.
- They have journeyed, but (like us) they have not yet arrived.

The Scrutinies call them and us to look deeper at ourselves and to come closer to God,

To eliminate what is weak and sinful, and to affirm what is holy.

Last week (at the 10:00 Mass) we prayed for their thirst and our thirst to be quenched by the living waters of Christ Jesus.

Today at the 6:30 Mass we pray for them, and for ourselves:

- To see more clearly in the light of Christ.
- To be free from the false values that blind us.
- To become fearless witnesses to the faith, (like the blind man).

As the Elect journey to full initiation in the Church at Easter,

We too continue our journey.

In a few weeks the Church will arrive at Easter

And will celebrate victory over sin and death.

Let us each avoid the darkness and journey in the light,

So that we all will arrive and celebrate together.