

Fr. Romeo Evangelista Homily
Sunday, March 14, 2021
Fourth Sunday of Lent
Cycle B

Today's rather lengthy passage from John the Evangelist is oozing with drama, both literary and literal. And like in every drama, there is a protagonist in the person of the man born blind, and a group of antagonists in the person of the unnamed Pharisees. There, too, as in every short story, a beginning action, a rising action, climax, and an outcome, followed by a resolution.

The resolution, however, happens for everyone in the story, except for the stiff and stuffy Pharisees who could not bear to accept the truth that stared them in the face and what is seen and accepted by everyone else except them. The story is about a man born blind and a group of men who willfully went blind. For all the importuning and repetitive questioning they did to both the blind man and his parents, the Pharisees ended up as the proverbial losers, outsmarted even by the blind man they so looked down upon.

Today's social media-crazed world shows a lot of temporary –if contrived – blindness. Diehard followers and supporters of political groups and personalities accuse their patrons of the very same issues – the same issues that their enemies were accused of just a few years before. Both sides see their enemies' faults and failings. Both are quick to defend their idols in the political realm. But both are guilty of selective memory and selective justice.

There is, to be sure, a whole lot of cognitive at play in the hearts and minds of so many people. Most people know what is wrong and good, but are generally unwilling to see either good or wrong in people they either hate or adore. There is a marked presence of at least two contradictory beliefs, attitudes, or values which cause internal discomfort but which the persons concerned would try at all cost to resolve – unsuccessfully, I might add.

The blind man regained his sight. That was a fact. But to accept that fact was to accept the wonder done by someone they hated. And so they hid behind their investigative style of interrogating, asking for the how's without accepting the what. There is none so blind, indeed, as he who would not see.

Amen