

Fr. Romeo Evangelista Homily
Sunday, March 10, 2024
Fourth Sunday of Lent
Cycle B

When I turned 40 a few years ago, a friend warned me. He said, “Your eyesight will start to fail”. And I was frightened at the thought. And yet true enough, I rely on my glasses now when driving. A deteriorating vision is a big nuisance. How much more then, if you’re going blind, or have been blind for a long time?

Today’s social media-crazed world shows a lot of temporary – if contrived-blindness. We see now 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 their own realm. But both are guilty of selective memory and selective justice.

There is, to be sure, a whole lot of cognitive dissonance 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 may 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 most. 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 would not see.

Our world today, is contaminated of what we call spiritual blindness. People have perfect vision but they pretend not to see. People enjoy the sense of sight and yet choose only what to see. They are blind not because of nature, but because of intention.

Such is the blindness to which we are plunged when we sin against the Lord and against one another. Sin shuts the eyes of faith so that we cannot perceive the vestiges of God in the world. Though we are convinced that we are walking, the truth is, we do not clearly see the road we are walking on – its humps, its dirt, its blockades.

Lent comes to us as an invitation to approach the light – see the light and to be filled with light again. God intends to touch our eyes, the eyes of faith, so that like the blind man, we can see for the first time, or see again. Jesus wants us not merely to see but to be filled, surrounded, and embraced by the light. In Lent, we are introduced to Jesus, the Light of the World, who becomes the light of our life.