

Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 17, 2024

See

I've had glasses since I was nine. Some children need to wear corrective lenses even earlier. This isn't a burden: if your vision can be enhanced, it's a blessing. One of my sisters was born with greatly reduced eyesight. I'm always aware that her view of the world has been very different from mine.

What we see with our eyes is one thing; what we perceive with mind, heart, and instinct is a more significant perspective. We wonder what the Greeks who wanted to "see" Jesus as he taught in Jerusalem were really looking for. Surely it didn't matter to them what he was wearing, whether he was handsome, how tall he was. They wanted to perceive for themselves if he was an astounding teacher—or perhaps more. Maybe they hoped to see what Martha professed at Lazarus' tomb: that Jesus was the anointed of God. My sister with limited vision has always appreciated the beauty of this truth. She sees more than many.

Alice Camille, Our Lenten Road to Holiness: Daily Reflections, Prayers and Actions (Waterford, CT: Twenty-Third Publications, 2024). Used with permission.

Questions To Ponder:

Recall a time that you were in total darkness with absolutely no light. What did that "blindness" feel like?

What are some blind spots that you have in your life? How did these develop? How can they be overcome?

What do you hope to "see" in your faith journey over these remaining two weeks of Lent?

Lectio Divina: Read John 20:23-26

Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life.

What word or phrase from this Scripture passage most resonates with you?

How will this reading shape your life this week as you continue your Lenten journey?

Challenge for the Week:

Discover some new gift or talent in your life. Try out a new hobby, artwork, musical instrument, exercise or whatever will awaken a new insight into yourself.