

newbee

SALT OF THE EARTH AND LIGHT OF THE WORLD:
CELEBRATING, LISTENING AND WALKING TOGETHER IN A SPIRIT OF COMMUNION
PARTICIPATION AND MISSION (MATTHEW 5: 13-16).

“A synodal church is a listening church, aware that listening is more than hearing. It is a reciprocal listening in which each one has something to learn.”

Pope Francis



As Jesus continues the journey, a large crowd follows him and his disciples. Leaving Jericho, they pass a blind man, a beggar, named Bartimaeus. On discovering that Jesus is passing by, he cries out to Jesus to have pity on him, that is, to heal him. He calls Jesus, “Son of David”, a messianic title, indicating that Jesus is the Davidic king, the heir of the promise made to King David (2 Sam. 7: 12-16).

Although some people tried to prevent Bartimaeus from attributing the title “Son of David” to Jesus, the blind man is persistent. To him, Jesus is his Master. He has such profound trust in Jesus, and this is what draws Jesus’ attention. As a result, Jesus has his disciples bring Bartimaeus closer to him.

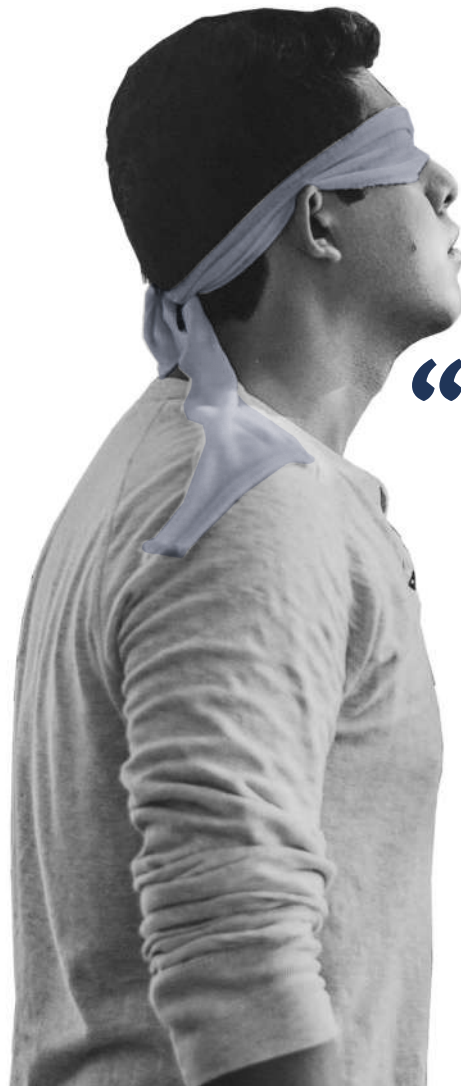
In healing him, Jesus did not touch Bartimaeus or say, “Your faith has saved you”. It is because of Bartimaeus’ deep faith in Jesus. On receiving his sight, Bartimaeus immediately follows Jesus “on the way”. Bartimaeus, therefore, is presented as a model of faith to us. He shows us that it is only by faith and complete trust in Jesus can a person “see” Jesus.

How about us? Are we like the disciples thinking that we know Jesus? After all, we have been Christians for a long time. Or we would honestly admit that we are “blind”, that is, still unable to “see” who Jesus is in our lives?

The gospel passage today reminds us that like Bartimaeus, we have to keep calling out to Jesus: “Son of David, have mercy on me” again and again in faith and with total trust in order that we may draw closer to him. We do this so that he may open our eyes and help us to truly “see” him, and in doing so, as his disciple, are ready to follow him all the way. ✚

MONTHLY FOCUS
A SHARED MISSION TOWARDS
A SYNODAL CHURCH

Are We Still “Blind”?



Over the past few Sundays, the gospel passages have been describing the journey of Jesus to Jerusalem. Along the way, Jesus has been predicting to his disciples that he will undergo his passion and death. However, they did not comprehend what he was trying to say to them. In other words, they were still “blind” as to who Jesus is and as to the actual purpose of his mission.

SCRIPTURE
of the DAY

- Jeremiah 31: 7-9
- Psalms 125: 1-6
- Hebrews 5: 1-6
- Mark 10: 46-52