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30th Sunday Ordinary Time

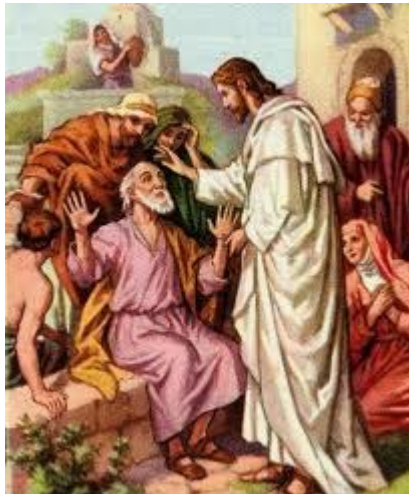
THE HEALING OF THE BLIND MAN

Fr. Dioscoro Ibanita

Today's Gospel on the blind man, Timaeus, is a reminder for all of us that we have to rely on God. Like Timaeus, we should depend on God, to ask for help in our needs, to thank Him for favors received and also to ask pardon for our wrong doings.

The blind man is an example of what our faith and trust in Jesus ought to be. He has that strong faith and confidence in Jesus. Unlike in the case of the crowd, who regard him as a nobody telling him to keep quiet. The persistent plea of the blind man, "Son of David, have pity on me," attract the attention of Jesus. That's why Jesus asked him what He wants from Him. There is no doubt about his plea. His earnest prayer is this, "Lord, that I may see". With the healing touch of Jesus, he was given a new opportunity to have a brighter future.

In the gospel reading, we should go deeper what does it also implies. We can say that there are two kinds of blindness namely; physical and spiritual. If our physical eyes are in good condition, it does not necessarily mean that we can always see what is the most im-



portant in our life. Eyes are of little use if we fail to see the hand of God at work in our lives. Sometimes we experience darkness in our lives. We really need the healing touch of Jesus to see the light and banish darkness.

Christ is telling us that there is an even worse state of blindness than physical blindness. Jesus is letting us know that He can cure this illness and prevent us from groping in the dark.

There are so many ways in which we have experienced spiritual blindness like for example hatred, pride and jealousy. All these can prevent us from seeing the goodness in others. Some of us are never satisfied with what they have and even wanting more. This is really an indication that we are blinded by greed and selfishness.

We are all victims of some sort of blindness such as these. We must be continually searching and praying for more light from Jesus. Only prayer, and trust in Jesus can give these to us. The closer we are to Jesus, the more light there is in our lives. The ardent cry of the blind man, "Lord, that I may see," is a prayer that should constantly be in lips.

SUNDAY GOSPEL

Mark 10:46-52

They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again." Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

ALL SAINTS DAY

This solemnity is celebrated on the first of November. It is instituted to honour all the saints, known and unknown, and, according to Urban IV, to supply any deficiencies in the faithful's celebration of saints' feasts during the year.

In the early days the Christians were accustomed to solemnize the anniversary of a martyr's death for Christ at the place of martyrdom. In the fourth century, neighbouring dioceses began to interchange feasts, to transfer relics, to divide them, and to join in a common feast; as is shown by the invitation of St. Basil of Caesarea (397) to the bishops of the province of Pontus. Frequently groups of martyrs suffered on the same day, which naturally led to a joint commemoration. In the persecution of Diocletian the number of martyrs became so great that a separate day could not be assigned to each. But the Church, feeling that every martyr should be venerated, appointed a common day for all. The first trace of this we find in Antioch on the Sunday after Pentecost. We also find mention of a common day in a sermon of St. Ephrem the Syrian (373), and in the 74th homily of St. John Chrysostom (407). At first only martyrs and St. John the Baptist were honoured by a special day. Other saints were added gradually, and increased in number when a regular process of canonization was established; still, as early as 411 there is in the Chaldean Calendar a "Commemoratio Confessorum" for the Friday after Easter. In the West Boniface IV, 13 May, 609, or 610, consecrated the Pantheon in Rome to the Blessed Virgin and all the martyrs, ordering an anniversary. Gregory III (731-741) consecrated a chapel in the Basilica of St. Peter to all the saints and fixed the anniversary for 1 November. A basilica of the Apostles already existed in Rome, and its dedication was annually remembered on 1 May. Gregory IV (827-844) extended the celebration on 1 November to



The commemoration of all the faithful departed is celebrated by the Church on 2 November, or, if this be a Sunday or a solemnity, on 3 November. The Office of the Dead must be recited by the clergy and all the Masses are to be of Requiem, except one of the current feast, where this is of obligation.

The theological basis for the feast is the doctrine that the souls which, on departing from the body, are not perfectly cleansed from venial sins, or have not fully atoned for past transgressions, are debarred from the Beatific Vision, and that the faithful on earth can help them by prayers, almsdeeds and especially by the sacrifice of the Mass.

In the early days of Christianity the names of the departed brethren were entered in the diptychs. Later, in the sixth century, it was customary in Benedictine monasteries to hold a commemoration of the deceased members at Whitsuntide. In Spain there was such a day on Saturday before Sexagesima or before Pentecost, at the time of St. Isidore (d. 636). In Germany there existed (according to the testimony of Widukind, Abbot of Corvey, c. 980) a time-honoured ceremony of praying to the dead on 1 October. This was accepted and sanctified by the Church. St. Odilo of Cluny (d. 1048) ordered the commemoration of all the faithful departed to be held annually in the monasteries of his congregation. Thence it spread among the other congregations of the Benedictines and among the Carthusians.

Of the dioceses, Liège was the first to adopt it under Bishop Notger (d. 1008). It is then found in the martyrology of St. Protadius of Besançon (1053-66). Bishop Otricus (1120-25) introduced it into Milan for the 15 October. In Spain, Portugal, and Latin America, priests on this day say three Masses. A similar concession for the entire world was asked of Pope Leo XIII. He would not grant the favour but ordered a special Requiem on Sunday, 30 September, 1888.

Things to Remember this All Saints and Souls Days

What we can do before the All Souls day
Before Nov. 1:

- Clean the Tombs of our Beloved Dead
- Offer Masses and Responso
- Organize Prayer assignments among relatives
- Food and Refreshments Assignments

On Nov 1-2 Vigil:

- Attend the Mass at the Cemetery / Offer prayers
- Sing Hymns / Play soft music
- Bond with your family with quality time

Remember: A plenary or full indulgence, applicable only to the souls in Purgatory, is granted to the faithful who,

On any and each day from November 1 to 8, devoutly visit a cemetery and pray, if only mentally, for the departed; or

1. On All Soul's Day, devoutly visit a church or oratory and recite an Our Father and Creed.
2. A partial indulgence, applicable only to the souls in Purgatory, is granted to the faithful who,
3. Devoutly visit a cemetery and at least mentally pray for the dead; or
4. Devoutly recite lauds and vespers from the Office for the Dead or the prayer *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord and let the perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

It is also necessary to fulfill the following conditions for the plenary indulgence, 1. Make a sacramental confession; 2. and Receive Holy Communion; 3. and Pray for the intention of the Holy

BASILICA NEWS BOX

POPE NAMES NEW CARDINALS

Vatican News



During his weekly General Audience, Pope Benedict XVI announced a consistory for the creation of six new Cardinals of the Catholic Church. The announcement was made in front of thousands gathered in St. Peter's Square after the Holy Father's catechesis.

"It is with great joy that I announce my intention to hold a consistory on November 24th in which I will appoint six new members of the College of Cardinals. Cardinals have the task of helping Peter's Successor carry out his mission to confirm people in the faith and to be the source and foundation of the Church's unity and communion," the Holy Father said to the crowd.

Pope Benedict XVI proceeded to read out the names of the new cardinals. They are:- Archbishop James Michael Harvey, prefect of the Pontifical Household who, Benedict XVI said, "I intend to appoint as archpriest of the papal basilica of St. Paul's Outside-the-

Walls". - His Beatitude Bechara Boutros Rai, patriarch of Antioch of the Maronites, Lebanon. - His Beatitude Baselios Cleemis Thottunkal, major archbishop of Trivandrum of the Syro-Malankars, India. - Archbishop John Olorunfemi Onaiyekan of Abuja, Nigeria. - Archbishop Ruben Salazar Gomez of Bogota, Colombia. - Archbishop Luis Antonio G. Tagle of Manila, Philippines.

The new members of the College of Cardinals will bring the number to 122 Cardinals who are eligible to vote in the conclave. The Pope concluded his address asking the faithful to keep the newly appointed cardinals in their prayers. "As you have heard the new cardinals carry out their ministry at the service of the Holy See or as fathers and pastors of particular Churches in various parts of the world," the Pope said.

MASS FOR THE DEPARTED PRIESTS

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS



The departed priests of the Archdiocese buried at the Resurrection Garden at the Holy Rosary Major Seminary are again remembered in the Holy Mass to be offered by the Archbishop together with the Caceres Clergy. The mass will be offered on Nov. 1 at 9:00 in the morning. The relatives as well as parishioners of the deceased priests will be attending the mass.

In his circular letter, the Archbishop is asking for special prayers for our beloved dead bishops and priests who served at the Archdiocese of Caceres.

Eternal Rest grant unto all souls O Lord...and may they rest in peace, Amen.

Archbishop Legaspi Thanks INA

Archbishop Leonardo Legaspi, OP said his last mass as the pastor of Caceres before the original image of Our Lady of Penafrancia. In his sharing, he recalled how he entrusted himself to INA when he arrived Naga. He thanked the maternal protection and guidance of INA for more than 28 years in serving the Archdiocese. He also recalled how he was cured from his cancer. The archbishop will have his checkup in Manila and will be back for the installation of his successor, Most Rev. Rolando Tirona, OCD, DD on November 14, 2012



The Archbishop Emeritus, Most Rev. Leonardo Z. Legaspi, OP, DD offering mass before the original Image of INA, thanking her and entrusting again the local church under the new shepherd, Archbishop Tirona.

BASILICA NEWS

LIVING ROSARY HELD

Basilica celebrates the Rosary Month with a Living Rosary sponsored by the Penafrancia Young Professionals and the Basilica Community. The celebration was held last October 27, 2012 after the anticipated mass. The usual procession around the patio was cancelled but the usual healing liturgy concluded the celebration. The participants also received rosaries. A fitting offering indeed to Mary was done within the Month of October.

Let us help realize our gift to INA
MUSEO DE NTRA. SRA. DE PENAFRANCIA
Send your Donations to the Basilica Office



TRIDUUM OF MASSES FOR OUR BELOVED DEAD

October 31, Nov 1-2
in all masses

6:00am, 7:00am and
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Send your offerings



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