

The Light of Christ

My dear friends in Christ,

In today's Gospel, Jesus restores the sight of a blind man named Bartimaeus. Bartimaeus' encounter with Jesus changed the entire experience of his life. He was able to follow Jesus because of the clear vision he received from our Lord Jesus Christ. We might think of this miracle as irrelevant for us since we can physically see. But the question is: how well do we see? Personal disposition limits our seeing. If we are absorbed in ourselves, we won't see clearly what is happening around us. The same is true if we are in a hurry, or sad, or troubled. Bartimaeus' journey from blindness to sight symbolizes the journey from unbelief to faith. The ability to see is a wonderful gift that we should never take for granted. Jesus offers each one of us vision with the same question "What do you want me to do for you?" I encourage you this week to respond to Jesus' question through examination of conscience, spending some time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament or attending a weekday Mass and present to Christ whatever it is the troubles you or makes you sad.

As you may have seen outside, a portion of the parking lot has been repaved. The parking lot was among the safety concerns identified by the Archdiocesan Risk Management Office when they inspected the grounds and facilities here at Holy Trinity and St. John's on October 12, 2017. The Risk Management assessment pointed out areas on the parking lot where asphalt was lifted and deteriorated creating safety and trip hazard. At the time, because of the cost of undertaking such a big project such as repaving the parking lot, and the fact that heavy machines, trucks and equipment will destroy the surface of the parking lot once we start to remodel the church, it was decided that we will wait until after remodeling the church. On September 18th and 19th, I went to an archdiocesan workshop for New and Transitional Pastors and Administrators and one of the things I was reminded of was the safety issues in the parish. During the summer, one of the many visitors we had in our parish observed the cracks on the parking lot, approached me and anonymously pledged to pay for repaving areas of the parking lot that present safety hazard. As the parish priest, it is my fiduciary responsibility to honor and respect donations made for specific parish projects. I am profoundly grateful to the donor who made it possible for us to repair the parking lot. Other major future projects will need to be approved by the archdiocese before we proceed.

In the same vein, I thank Francis Stadelman for repairing a major crack on the walkway leading to the adoration chapel and parish office. Some parishioners have tripped on that walkway because of the crack but fortunately no one was injured. I am grateful to Francis for the repair and for many other maintenance works he has done for our parish.

Also, I would like to express my gratitude to John Freitag who worked with me last week in mowing the grass and keeping our grounds clean. John Freitag and Eric Schlerf have volunteered to help me work on our church grounds. I thank these our brothers for their service to our parish community.

Last Wednesday Night Dinner was sponsored and prepared by Mike Hennick and his family. It was another wonderful Christian gesture that serves to bring us unite us as we break bread together. Thank you, Mike and your family, for witnessing to Christ.

May the blessings from the Lord abide with always.

--Fr. Anthony Ahamefule