



Homily for 3/14/2021

Very Rev. J. David Carter, JCL, JV

Laetare Sunday
and the Second Scrutiny

On this Fourth Sunday of Lent, the Church bids us Rejoice and be glad because our redemption is at hand. We are about to nurse with delight in the gift of salvation. Our Lent is halfway over, and Easter is around the corner. We sing with the Psalmist “I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the House of the Lord!” It is on this occasion also that the Church presents those preparing for the Easter Sacraments with the Second Scrutiny.

The theme for this 2nd Scrutiny is Light and Darkness.

St. Paul says, Brothers and sisters: You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.

Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth.

We perceive light through our eyes. Thus, in the Gospel we are presented with the figure of a man born blind. He is one who lives in darkness. Before we were enlightened by Christ, we were like the man born blind – living in darkness and ignorance. Baptism, even as it washes us with water, also wakes us up. “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light.”

Sleep is equated with death. Being awake means being alive. Darkness is equated with ignorance. Being in the Light means knowing the truth.

Our eyes were made for light. Our minds were made for truth. Our souls were made for God. Our hearts are restless till they rest in you, O God.

We should want to see the truth. But the reality is that this present world is like a drug that lulls us back to sleep. The false idols of power, pleasure, and wealth deaden our senses and numb our desires. We settle for lesser things. By God’s Grace, let your eyes be opened! Hear the Good News that God is made Man that man might be one with God! This is a light that enlightens our darkness. This world is not enough for you. You were made for God! But we still have difficulty letting go.

To us who are used to the darkness, the light hurts our eyes. The Catholic faith is light. It is the fullness of God’s own revelation to us of who He is and who we are in Him. It is the truth that will set us free. But it is full of hard truths that hurt our sensitive eyes. It means our lives have to change. It means we can no longer plead ignorance. It means crucifying our old self. Many will make us doubt. Perhaps even our own family members will disown us. Maybe authorities and people we esteem may belittle us or ridicule us just like they did to the man born blind who now sees. Only the fact that this light comes washed in the blood of a suffering servant, an innocent Lamb led to the slaughter out of love for us, makes it palatable. We didn’t make it up. It is not an invented religion. It is not man-made. It is Divine. The countless multitude of saints and martyrs give it credibility and credence.

“I do believe, Lord,” and he worshiped him.

Then Jesus said,

“I came into this world for judgment,
so that those who do not see might see,
and those who do see might become blind.”

May it be so for the Elect who will receive their sacraments at Easter, and may it be so for all who call upon the name of Jesus Christ!