

Thoughts By Sr. Jo Ann
Reflection for Fourth Sunday of Lent
John 9:1-41

This Gospel from John is filled with probing thoughts and theological directions. To begin with we have Jesus “we have to do the works of the one who sent me while it is day” giving credence to Jesus coming from God. Then we have the Pharisees accusing Jesus of healing on the Sabbath day [vs14] Another attempt to trap him. In Verse 17, the blind man announces Jesus to be a “prophet”, same point the Woman at the Well used last Sunday. Here the Writer, John brings in an Old Testament theme, appealing to convince the Jews of His Messiahship. And what about those parents, operating out of fear. If a person was “expelled from the synagogue for acknowledging Jesus as the Christ” that person was no longer under Jewish protection from the Roman guards.

And the wonderful blind man, “one thing I do know is that I was blind and now I see.” The theme of Blindness vs Sight, and INSIGHT! And this brings us to the blindness of the Pharisees, “Surely, we are not also blind, are we?” YES YOU ARE! Here is the crux of the Gospel for all of us: Are we [the reader] blind too? Jesus explains: “if you were blind you would have no sin’ but now you are saying “We see” so your sin remains.” [vs 41].

Think of our own “blindness”: What did I miss? WHO do I miss? Do I have an addiction to being RIGHT? Vs. 39 “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see might see, and those who DO see might become blind.” The Gospel challenges the Jewish leaders to look deeper than the law, to open their eyes to SEE who is with them. To Believe in God, to Believe in this peasant man, as the WORD of God. John’s Gospel is filled with depth symbolism, challenging the reader/ us to look beyond what you “see”, To seek Insight; to discover the Messiah in our midst.