

Dear Faithful Parishioner of St. Vincent de Paul,

In preparation for the 4th Sunday of Lent, I would like to offer a reflection on this Sunday's readings.

The Gospel today comes from the 9th chapter of St. John (John 9:1-41). It is healing of the Blind Man. The people asked Jesus, "who sinned, this man or his parents that he was born blind?" Jesus simple response was "Neither ... it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him."

Today we can relate to the Blind Man. We ask the Lord to open our eyes of faith. As our lives have changed ,our mission hasn't changed. We are all called to be light of the world. Even though we are unable to come to our parish for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, our light is shining in our Domestic Church – our very homes. This time in our homes will help us reflect how Jesus is the center of our homes and our lives. It is a time to begin anew. If you don't already have one in your home make a special Prayer Altar in a prominent place in your home. This special place will be a place that your family can gather to pray. Place religious articles on the altar: a Bible, crucifix, rosaries, statues, holy water, etc. This will help you make a focal point in your home where you can find peace and make Jesus the center of your life.

Attached you will find resources for streaming Mass and for personal and family prayer in your homes. Avail yourself to these resources.

We can still spread the Gospel from our homes. We have technology today that can reach the whole world. Proclaim your faith through social media. Many times we see negativity on social media. It is time to use this to promote the Gospel as well as positive and uplifting messages of faith. Let us encourage one another and build each other up.

At the end of the Gospel Jesus ask the Blind Man, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" The Blind Man says, "Who is he, sir that I may believe in Him?" Jesus responded, "The one speaking with you is He." The Blind Man proclaimed, "I do believe, Lord," and he worshiped Him.

We do believe! We are faithful! Worship Jesus in your homes! Jesus is calling all of us to trust in Him, especially now. May we continue to pray for our world, each other, and especially for those who have lost their loved ones during this time.

In Christ,

Fr. Willard