

***Thirtieth Sunday Per Annum (B)***  
***October 25, 2015.***

*'Son of David, have mercy on me' (Mk. 10:47).*

The request made by Bartimaeus in his encounter with our Lord reveals two things: the blind man's faith in our Lord's power to heal him and the fact that at one time this man had been able to see but on account of an unspecified reason he had lost his sight. *'My teacher, let me see again'*. Having regained his sight Bartimaeus *followed Jesus on the way*. This last detail is more significant than it appears for *the way* is one of the earliest terms used in the New Testament to describe the Christian faith. All of us are familiar with our Lord's declaration: *I am the way, the truth and the life*. Christian life, simply expressed is life in Christ by the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. The goal and purpose of our life is to become as Christ-like as possible; to grow in our Lord's likeness and to reflect His glory.

We well know that it is quite possible in life to one's way; to be blinded by other things which, while good and even necessary, can never become the greatest good in our lives or the thing to which we give the greatest importance. It is indeed possible for any number of reasons to lose one's way even to become blind to truth, to goodness and to beauty. For this reason, the prayer or request of Bartimaeus, is easily one that we can make our very own not only if we have lost our way but also as we walk with our Lord along the path of devout humility.

Who of us here has not failed at times to see what may be very evident to others? It is possible at times to be blinded by one's prejudice or by any number of factors that might prevent us from boldly stepping out in faith or from making our needs known to our Lord. There is both simplicity and boldness to the dialogue between Bartimaeus and our Lord and the result is immediate for the evangelist tells us that *immediately the man regained his sight and followed Jesus on the way*.

From his early youth, St. Josemaria Escriva, the founder of Opus Dei had been impressed by the boldness of Bartimaeus and by the quick response of our Lord. When in his youth this modern day saint realised that our Lord was asking something from him, and that he still did not know exactly what it was, while putting himself completely in God's hands, he prayed insistently, asking for light: *ut videam! Master, that I may see*. Years later, when the work that God had entrusted to him was growing and bearing fruits of holiness, he wrote: *I can never forget how, when meditating on this passage many years back, and realizing that Jesus was expecting something of me, though I myself did not know what it was, I made up my own aspirations: 'Lord, what is it you want? What are you asking of me?' I had a feeling that he wanted me to take on something new and the cry Rabboni, ut videam, 'Master, that I may see,' moved me to beseech Christ again and again, 'Lord, whatever it is that you wish, let it be done.'*

The saints have much to teach us about simplicity and boldness in prayer. We must approach our Lord with the same simplicity and confidence and always ask that we might see; that we might be freed from whatever may be keeping us from discerning the presence and the saving power of God at work in our midst. It could be that Bartimaeus, precisely because he could not see with his natural vision was open to perceiving that he was in the presence of more than just an ordinary Teacher. It is possible as it pertains to us, that as we journey in faith we may have lost our ability to perceive the

presence of God at work in and among us. So we too must ask always: *Master, that I may see.* God reveals Himself to the humble and to the gentle of heart. St. Augustine, one of the greatest teachers of the Church, whose own conversion to the truth of Christ was brought about by the humility of our Saviour, wrote: *The Christ preached by the Church is not a Christ rich in earthly treasure or Christ covered with gold, but Christ crucified. When this Christ was first preached to the few who believed He was mocked by the multitudes. Nevertheless, by the power of the Cross the blind saw, the lame walked, the lepers were cleansed so that all might come to know that even among the powers of this world, there is nothing more powerful than the humility of God.*

Our Lord continues to be among us in the humility of His Eucharistic presence. We can only fully encounter Him and receive His healing grace if we also approach Him with profound humility. *Master, that I may see.* This humble and bold request implies a humble approach not only to our worship but also to life generally speaking. May our reverent worship of our Lord in the Eucharistic Sacrifice make us both humble and bold in our prayer; that we may see Him in the suffering and the needy, and confidently proclaim Him to those who do not yet know Him.