

Peace is ... living in Christ's light

1 Samuel 16: 7 *"Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the Lord looks into the heart."*

Ephesians 5: 8,9 *"Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth."*

John 9: 41 *"If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you are saying, 'We see,' so your sin remains."*

Reflection:

The light of the world, Christ, produces every kind of goodness ... and truth. In His light, everything can be seen clearly. Jesus told his disciples, "Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him." (vs. 3) Christ made the blind man see and showed how the "seeing" can be truly blind. When we are like the Pharisees and do not admit our sinfulness, we become blind to the truth. In our blindness, we are not open to receive Christ's mercy and healing. The Pharisees were all about appearances. God sees beyond the appearance and knows our hearts. We must also look past appearances and not be judgmental or critical because of how things look to us. We are to love, regardless of appearances, which brings peace and healing. Recall that when Jesus performed the miracle in today's gospel story, he used mud he made from clay and spit. He used the ordinary, with His love, to make the extraordinary happen. So too, can He use us.

There is a spiritual blindness that is so pervasive in the world today, which says that 'whatever I think is good is good'. This is moral relativism, and we must be on guard against it. It results in evil being called good and good evil. Abortion and mercy killing are examples. We know that there is an objective Good. We know that the Truth is Christ. We must always look to the teachings of Christ and the Magisterium of His Church as our moral standard, not to our own thoughts or feelings, which can change like the wind.

When we strive to remain in Christ's light, then we can be the lamp through which He can bring His Goodness to others. Then God's works can be made visible through us.

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### **Action:**

- *Attend the Communal Penance Service on Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at St. John's at 7 p.m. Consult the NWI Catholic paper for other choices.*
- *Revisit your Lenten resolutions and assess how you are doing. Make sure your rice bowl is in a prominent place where everyone will see it and use it! Get re-energized. Take time to read the stories of the people highlighted on the Lenten calendar that was distributed with the rice bowls. Or, for online calendar in English or Spanish, go to <http://orb.crs.org/resources/individual-and-family/>*
- *Attend the Stations of the Cross. See bulletin for times and locations.*
- *Let us recognize God's work in others, write down their good works, and place them on the "Whatever you do" boards in church, so we can also see God's work made visible through our people.*
- *Attend the Easter Vigil, and witness the light of Christ being passed on to the Catechumens as they become members of the Church.*