4th Sunday

Gospel of Jonh 9:1-41

Reflection – Asia

BLINDNESS TO SIGHT

We begin the year 2020 with devastating news; ***floods*** that kill many people in Jakarta, Indonesia, several ***earthquakes*** that happens in Puerto Rico, ***volcanic eruptions*** in Alaska, Japan and Philippines, ***bush fires*** in Australia, unending ***war*** between Iran and U.S., and the ***disease*** outbreak coronavirus pandemic. Realities that darken our way, tested our capacities to live in harmony amidst life threatening situation, and tempted us to loss our sight of what/who are higher, valuable and significant in life.

The reading from the book of Samuel is a cause for joy and consolation for all of us; *“do not judge from his appearance… not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the Lord looks into the hearts.”* Despite of ournothingness and sinfulness God looks at our hearts; that tiny desire to be better, that little aspiration to be good and to do good, the longing for forgiveness, the hunger for justice and truth, wanting for peace and deep happiness, etc. With humble heart, let us ask God to guard our hearts not to lose it sight especially in times of temptations and adversities.

In today’s 2nd reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians reminds us to *“live as children of light, which produces goodness, righteousness and truth.”* Now more than ever, we are called to shine in the darkness, to be a ray of hope in a middle of hopelessness, to be more near and in unity with our brothers and sisters who are sick, in agony of death and to those who are generously sacrificing their lives, so others may live.

The Gospel of John tells us the healing of the man born blind, the sign of Jesus power and compassion. Let us beg our merciful and loving Father to take this opportune time to restore our sight, to grant us conversion of heart, to heal our world and to bring us all to light, *“awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead and Christ will give you light” (cf. Eph. 5,14).* That after all these, we may all experience and see the saving power of God, *“it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him” (Jn.9,3).*