

--- There are only three voices: God's, ours, and the Evil One's. We all need to understand the Lord's guidance in our lives vs. the deceptions of the enemy or the tug of our own fallen nature. The Lord wants us to be aware, to understand and then take action accordingly on the good inspirations we receive from Him while rejecting the bad. Join us next Sunday at 10:00 a.m. in the auditorium for the second installment of our Lenten/Easter prayer series on the Discernment of Spirits of St. Ignatius of Loyola.

--- The One Parish One Prisoner volunteering is off to a great start! There are already enough volunteers to assist the first team (seven members per team) and there are almost enough for a second team. The Kolbe House and Underground Ministries who facilitate this ministry are hoping we can have a second team formed to help another inmate re-enter meaningfully into the community, so, if you haven't applied to be a volunteer yet and are interested, there is still a little time: <https://undergroundministries.org/st-elizabeth-chicago>.

--- This weekend we have the Gospel of the man born blind being healed and it serves as a good time to reflect on how we see things, our world views. Sometimes God shakes up our lives, or the world, to help us get a better more heavenly perspective on things. We called this growth of perspective repentance or "metanoia".

To use an uplifting image, my mind was drawn to the movie *Dead Poet's Society* with Robin Williams, God rest his soul. He was a creative English teacher who wanted his somewhat stuffy, academy students to see life from a new perspective by having them stand on their desks. God gives us many opportunities in life to help us see more as He sees.

The disciples asked Jesus of the blind man if it was his sin or his parent's sin that caused him to be born blind. It was a common believe, and even one we might have now, that people's illness or misfortune in this life is because of their own personal sins. But Jesus Christ responds that it was neither but "*so that the works of God might be revealed.*"

The blind man wasn't blind because of personal sin but because of Original Sin. It's a fallen world, God didn't make blindness, sickness, or death in the beginning. But God can use these evils as Christ says to reveal His glory. Ultimately, the blind man's healing led him and others to being Jesus' disciples which leads to eternal life. The point of this Gospel isn't so much that Jesus can cure physical blindness, we know that He can, He's God. It's that such a work can lead to faith in Christ as our savior.

Also, our sufferings can make us much more dependent on God because we are painfully aware of our limits and mortality. I once heard a priest relate about a woman who had gone into complete remission after suffering years with cancer. She said to him: "Father, sometimes I miss my cancer." She didn't miss the cancer per say, but the closeness to God that the cancer forced her into. Her experience of cancer showed her fragility and the need for Christ on every level. When she prayed to the Lord then, it was with complete heartfelt trust because she knew she was not in control.

We are sometimes put into situations that we may not have desired initially, that compel us to see other people's and even God's perspective a little better.

Onward and upward.

In Christ,

Fr. Mike

