

Homily: 30th Sunday: Cycle B: 2015: Jer 31: 7-9; Ps 126; Heb 5: 1-6; Mk 10: 46-52
“Turning to the Lord in company with our Lady as individuals and as a nation”

1. **The Gospel today gives us a model of how we should turn to the Lord and ask for His help.** This applies to us both as individuals and as a community. As the blind man cried out so should we, “*Jesus, son of David, have pity on me.*” **The first step** to receiving the graces God wants to give us - to be holy, to turn away from sin, to help us in our daily struggles - is to acknowledge humbly that we need His help. Like the people surrounding the blind man, there will always be people who tell us not to cry out to the Lord, but to be quiet. Do we allow others to do that to us? Or do we persist in our Faith despite outward opposition? The Catholic Church is often criticized for taking a strong stand on moral and spiritual issues, *be it on defense of human life, particularly the life of the unborn children and the terminally ill from the evils of abortion and euthanasia, to the defense of marriage between one man and one woman, to standing up to the current presidential administration who is still trying with the Obamacare health care laws, after a couple of years of arguing in the courts, to get us as a Church to go against our consciences in regard to paying for contraception and abortion and to violate our religious freedom as a Church and individual Catholics in the process – all of this which will probably reach the Supreme Court this coming year, and as we know there are no guarantees there.* In the face of this opposition we need to both pray and take action to defend our faith.
2. **There is always a temptation to give up or give in if we face opposition.** To take the easy way out is just “*to go along to get along*”, and to give into human respect. But where will that get us in regard to our Faith and eternal destiny to be with God, which will only come about if we are faithful to the Lord and His teaching made known to us through our Catholic faith in this life? In the end we will be seen as foolish and possibly lose our souls if we denied our Faith in serious matters. That is where **prayer** comes in. Prayer or dialog with God is the means both to obtain divine favor, but also the strength we need to persevere in the face of opposition. The blind man today kept calling out to Jesus, and Jesus eventually heard him, and said to him, “*What do you want me to do for you?*” And he replied, “*Master, I want to see.*” **Do**

we want to see - to see things as God does rather than as the world does? To live in the truth which alone will set us free? Living in God's truth leads to the Cross in this world, but it will also lead to the Resurrection someday, and a joy and peace beyond imagining! But right now on earth we have to fight the good fight, and to do that we first **need to pray for the courage to live our faith fully and to always witness in the public sphere to the truth of our Catholic faith with integrity.**

3. Jesus says to the blind man, "***Go on your way, your faith has saved you.***" Then the Gospel says, "***Immediately he received his sight, and followed Him on the way.***" **To follow Jesus on the way means to live Jesus's new life and to turn away from those ways of the world which are at odds with the ways of God.** To receive our sight means that both our inward and outward blindness are healed by the Lord. Most people are not blind outwardly – but tragically because of sin we are often spiritually blind in our soul, in our minds and hearts. **Only by rooting our lives in the Lord can that blindness be lifted over time.** We must never lose heart when combating the power of evil and sin in our own lives or in the life of our country. **The spiritual victory is only won by patience and humility.** And it is by perseverance, generosity, confession of our sins in the Sacrament and regular reverent reception of Holy Communion that we eventually gain victory over the world, the flesh and the devil. To acknowledge that we need God's help is the first step as the blind man shows us today. There is someone else who can show us how to love the Lord and respond to Him the right way, and that is **the Blessed Mother**, whose motto is: *Let it be done accord to the thy Word, O' Lord*, as we know from the mystery of the Annunciation. In the month of October, the Church honors her in a special way as her Liturgical feast of "Our Lady of the Rosary" occurs on October 7 each year. This is also why we are encouraged to sing a hymn each week at Mass in her honor and are also encouraged to daily pray a set of the mysteries of her Holy Rosary. **Remember Mary is the patroness of our country, let's ask her to intercede for each of us and our country to turn to the Lord and receive His healing in all the areas of life we need healing in, as individuals and as a nation.** And through her prayers may we live and witness to our Catholic faith with ever more integrity and courage. God bless you.