

Now I see

“Though I was blind, now I see.” (John 9:25) This is the famous phrase which the man born blind uttered during his conversation with the Pharisees, when they argued with him asserting that the person who cured him is indeed sinful. The born blind replied with a decisive phrase: **“Whether He is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.”**

The condition of the born blind faithfully represents the condition of man born in the flesh before he had met with Christ and gained from Him the spiritual rebirth.. As the Lord Jesus explained: **“That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”** (John 6:3). After the fall of Adam and Eve, man became spiritually blind at birth, unable to realize the things concerning God, **“But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”** (1 Cor 2:14). However, through incarnation and redemption of Christ which He offered on the cross, it has been made available to any person to accept the Lord Jesus as a redeemer. Thus he may believe in Him, and enters with Him in a covenant through baptism to be born again of water and spirit, and such that new spiritual eyes are created in him, eyes that are able to see God in the spirit. Also, the Holy Spirit dwells in the person through the grace of the Sacrament of Myron...So the person can say faithfully: **“Though I was blind, now I see.”** For the Spirit of God starts to gradually reveal the divine mysteries to him.

This was expressed in the Bible on the mouth of our teacher Saint Paul the Apostle when he said: **“Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.”** (1Cor 2:12) With continuous spiritual nourishment by praying with psalms, studying the Bible, partaking of the church sacraments, the person grows in the spirit such that his spiritual vision is greatly enlightened. Thus, he would understand God’s plans, the mysteries of the word of God are revealed to him, and his senses become trained to discern good from evil. His life becomes more harmonious and in accord with the Holy Spirit who dwells in him, to the extent that those around him clearly notice that he is always guided by the Holy Spirit. Thereby the following biblical passage is fulfilled in him: **“Because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.”** (Romans 8:14).

If the person neglects the spiritual eyes that are created in him through baptism, if he allows them to be corrupted by evil images and to be covered by vanity, if he does not care to continuously clean them from debris that attach to them by practicing self reproach and repentance, if he did not take heed to always nourish them with the divine light which shines up on them in prayers, reading the Bible, and spiritual discipleship, the result would be such that these precious spiritual eyes would stop functioning. The person would stumble in the darkness and go back to the state of spiritual blindness that he was born with. Nevertheless, if the person paid attention to his miserable condition and rose up to repent, rejecting sin, throwing himself in

God’s Bosom and asking Him for help, with all his heart, if he returns again to partake of the sacraments and to nourish himself with the divine word of God, his spiritual vision gradually comes back to him, so he shouts in great joy: **“Though I was blind, now I see.”..!**

Perhaps we now understand why the church calls the sacrament of baptism the **“Sacrament of Enlightenment”**, because through it, new spiritual eyes are created. This also might be the reason why the sixth Sunday of Lent, on which we read the gospel of the born blind where Jesus created new eyes for him, is customarily called the Sunday of Baptisms. In it, many families are keen on baptizing their children in order to create for them, with the born blind, new spiritual eyes with their new man who they obtained in baptism. It is the man who **“was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.”** (Eph 4:24).

Now, it remains for us to notice how important to regularly get a “Spiritual eye exam” with our spiritual physician, and to regularly maintain our spiritual eyes, keeping them from any contaminations, so that they may remain enlightened in order to lead our steps in the path of eternal life.

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