

## **What do You Want Me to do for You?**

The Eucharist we celebrate allows us to continue to appreciate the ever-abiding love of God. Out of God's love, he created us in his image and likeness, redeemed us through Jesus Christ, his Son, and our Lord, and continues his sanctification through the gifts of the sacraments- sources of his sanctifying grace. Hence, one of the Eucharist's remarkable things to bring in our lives is the confidence that God's love is with us. He created us in His love, wants us to live permanently in his love to die in his love, and live with him in love forever. Our readings, in different ways, point out this infinite and boundless love of God.

The prophecy of Jeremiah in the first reading announces the good news of the return of the people from exile. The hope, joy, and consolation God will bring to his people by restoring their devastated nation. The same comfort God showed the people of Israel he revealed to us through the mission of Christ- the ideal high priest who came and became one with us so that we become one with God. God chose him and glorified him through his suffering, death, and resurrection. He went through all we are going through in our life struggles, "for he is beset by weakness," as the second reading reminds us. His disposition is a perfect example to us in our earthly efforts. Christ continues to identify with us, especially when we call upon him as he was called upon in the gospel today.

The gospel today- the healing of Bartimaeus, a blind man, invites us to reflect on a couple of things. First, the episode tells us something about Christ, which the second reading has described as our ideal high priest. It tells us also something about the blind man and other characters in the episode. Firstly, the blind man must have heard about the healing power of Christ. So, as soon as he heard that Jesus was passing, he started to shout with confidence for Jesus to pity him. We have to point out how he didn't allow the people that rebuked him to stop him from asking for help. Thus, he got the attention of Jesus, who called him. Funny, the same people that were shunning him turned to encourage him to get up and answer Jesus' call. Secondly, Bartimeaus knew what he was asking, so it didn't take him time to answer Jesus' question: "What do you want me to do for you?" He replied: "Master, I want to see." Thus, Jesus healed because of his strong faith.

The same way Bartimaeus encountered Jesus with faith and was healed, the same way Jesus wants us to feel his presence with confidence every minute of our life, especially his Eucharistic presence in the Mass. Like Bartimaeus, Jesus asks us always: what do you want me to do for you? The Mass is one of the opportunities for us to answer this question by presenting our intentions. These intentions need we present in faith. We remember that our intention is not to be limited to material things but to other spiritual struggles. An interesting too to point out is the attitude of Bartimaeus after his healing. What did he do? He followed Christ and began to use the gifts he had received to bear witness. Do we come to Church to pray only when we are in need? Do we still remember to follow him when things are ok for us? Let us ask the good Lord to help us have a lively that sustains us in season and out of season. Amen.