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Fr. Danny Murphy – Forth Sunday of Lent – 2017

Our Gospel today contains what I consider to be two very important aspects with our relationship; with God. Before we get to that, let us first look at the topic of blindness that is part of our Gospel. We meet a man who was blind physically and we meet the Pharisees who were blind spiritually. Thank God we are not blind physically, but are we blind spiritually? There are none so blind as those who will not see! Is that me? Do I have eyes, but do not see? Consider this: a father says to his daughter when she looks at her home work: "Not now, can't you see that I'm busy working on the computer?" Compare that father to this father who was so overwhelmed with the love for his daughter, that he wrote the song: "Isn't she Lovely," in her honor. His name is Stevie Wonder. Which of the two fathers is really blind? Consider this: A wife asks her husband if he still finds her attractive and could he talk with her about some of her hopes and hurts? He replies: "Can't you see

that I'm busy watching the ballgame?" Compare that husband to this husband who was so attentive to his wife that he wrote her this lovesong: "You are so beautiful to me, you are all that I hope, you are all that I need, you are so beautiful to me." His name is Ray Charles. Which one of those two husbands is really blind? There are none so blind as they who will not see. I have eyes, but do I really see? Dear Jesus, if I often see the faults of others, but not my own, Lord, teach me to see. If I often don't see the many blessings that you bestow on me, Lord, teach me to see. If I often fail to see the needs, the feelings of other people around me, Lord teach me to see. Dear Jesus, we thank you for giving us our eyesight. Please heal our blindness, Amen.

Now, let's take a look at what I consider to be two very important aspects about our relationship with God that are contained in our Gospel. We hear, that as Jesus was passing by, he saw a man who was blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who caused this man to be born blind? His sins, or the sins of his parents?" Jesus replied, "Neither his sins, nor the sins of his parents, but rather so that the glory of God might be revealed through him." One very important aspect in our relationship with God is to see that God does not get back at us because of our sins! "Whose sin caused him to be blind – his or his parents??" Jesus replied, "Neither!" Punishment theology is so hard to give up, because it seems to accurate. But that's not who God is! God is not revenge, God is Love!! When we're going through the tough times, the tragic times in our lives, God is not an accomplice, God is a

companion. And the other, what I consider, very important aspect about our relationship with God that is contained in the Gospel is that good comes out of everything, even that which isn't very good at all. The man who was born blind became a disciple of Jesus, believed in him – worshipped him. That would have never happened had he not been born blind – he would have never have met Jesus had he not been born blind. Good comes out of everything, even that which is not good at all. When he was nine years old Louis Braille suffered a terrible accident which left him totally blind. Louis Braille created an alphabet of raised dots on paper that blind people could touch and thus be able to read and he opened up a whole new world for those who were blind. Blindness is not good – lots of things in life are not good, but God IS good. And God brings good out of everything, everything! What an important aspect of our relationship with God is for us to believe, to trust that. Dear God, even if my sins are as many as the sands on the seashore. You always wipe them away, you never hold them against me. Dear God let me be able to see, that no matter what has happened in my life, no matter what is happening in my life, no matter what will happen in my life, all will be well, because of you, amen.