6th SUNDAY OF PASCHA

Blind Man.

Let us imagine to ourselves the mental state of this blind from birth. He cried out, called. They pushed him, maybe even forced him to be silent, but he still cried out, begged. Speaking in our terms, he was praying. Finally, that Miracle-Worker Who was invisible to him approached. But He did not perform an immediate miracle. On the contrary. He did something which according to human understanding might appear humiliating, unpleasant. He spat and made clay from the saliva and earth, and smeared the eyes of the blind man. But this wasn’t enough; He sent him with this clay on his eyes to go wash in the pool of Siloam. But the blind man didn’t object, he went feeling his way, stumbling, exposed to the mockery of the passersby. Finally he reached the pool and washed. And here, fulfilling all this, enduring all this, he finally recovered his sight and returned seeing.

But the main question of this Gospel was: “Who sinned, this man or his parents that he was born blind?"

Different kinds of hardships and sufferance that people encounter in their life make them ask: “ Why have I such illness?, why have I such sufferings? Who is that fault?

But instead of asking “Why?” We have to look for the reasons of this or another suffering. We have to ask ourselves: “What can that mean to me?” “What do God want to say through this situation to me?” “ What is God will?”

Today’s Gospel of the man born blind reminds us, that not everything is a consequence of the sin or God’s punishment, but the admission of God’s will, to the person to get closer to God. Our sufferings open to us the sight and meaning of it. Help us to find ourselves in this situation, help us to find the sense of life. In different life situation we have to see God’s action toward us, God’s presence.

Not once the God send the hardships and illnesses on righteous people to test them in their faith. God is like a buyer that buys diamonds. He has to take diamond in the dark place to see if the diamond shines. It is the sign of its authenticity. The righteous people are the righteous when even dough in hardships they are faithful to God. But for these sufferings and hardships God generously rewards us. How we saw in today’s Gospel after all sufferings God grand man the vision not only physical but also spiritual. And we have to remember that faith is the most important base of our spiritual life.

One famous and religious neurosurgeon had a lecture with their students. They were asking a lot different questions. Then one student said: “How can you believe in God, if no one hasn’t seen him on earth or even in the cosmos? The neurosurgeon replied to him: “When I do an operation on a brain, I also do not see a mind there.

 We too are spiritually blind and cannot see the Lord. But we know that He exists. Let us call to Him, cry out to Him, begging for help. And let us not despond if this help is not immediately given to us. Maybe we still have to go a long way, not an easy way, like the way for the blind man to the pool of Siloam. On this path we might meet unpleasant things, humiliations, like the clay for the blind man. Let us endure everything. Let us be obedient. Let us do what He orders us to do; let us go the way He showed us, like the blind man’s way to the pool of Siloam. And here, when we have fulfilled all this, then the Lord will answer our prayer, and if it pleases Him, will fulfill it. And the same will happen to us that happened to the blind man. When, through the circumstances of our life, the Lord asks us, “Dost Thou believe on the Son of God?” (Jn. 9:35), we will answer: We believe Lord! and we will worship Him.

Only let us avoid all images during the time of prayer. We must not imagine anything to ourselves; but like the blind man, let us just know that the Lord is near and that He can do anything. And if things seem to turn out opposite to our prayers, let us not despond. But let us hope, hope against hope. And He will do what is beneficial for us. Let us keep the state of mind of the blind man — this is the best form of prayer.

Amen.