**The healing of the Blind man**

**35th Sunday after Pentecost**

In the name of the Father, and the son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen. Today we commemorate St. Anthony the Great, and we also read about the blind man of whom Jesus said, "Thy faith hath saved thee".

Our Savior, in His earthly ministry, certainly healed many blind people.  We read in today’s gospel text of a blind beggar who was so eager to see that he would not stop yelling out, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” as the Lord passed by.  Even though others told the man to be quiet and not to cause a scene, he continued to plead for healing.  He succeeded in getting Christ’s attention, and He asked the man a simple question:  “What do you want me to do for you?”  The blind man responded, “Lord, that I may receive my sight.”  Christ said, “Receive your sight; your faith has made you well.”  Immediately he could see again and began to follow the Lord and to glorify God.

Now. Do we have this sort of faith, brothers and sisters? This man was blind in his eyes, but certainly not in his soul. But we, sometimes have it the opposite way. We see with our eyes, but we don't see very well with our souls. We don't recognize the God in everything we do, everything we are, both in our weaknesses and in our strengths.

The multitude told him to be quiet. Who was the multitude? in this case, it was probably some well-meaning people, probably the apostles among them. But it also means, the rabble, the crowd, the demons, the world.

Do we listen to the world? It can be something as simple as, we are afraid to make the sign of the cross when we have a meal among our business associates. Or we may justify false and foolish priorities.

And do we ask for the things we need?

Ask God for what you need, brothers and sisters. But we must ask with faith, and part of asking with faith is also, how you react after God gives you what you had asked for. Look at the example of the blind man to teach you this. We've been given the pearl of great price. We forget so often to give thanks to God.

Is there anything in your life that you should thank God for? It's very easy to forget how good God is. It's very easy to get wrapped up in our lives. It gets so complicated, we get so distracted, but what is really important? God's mercy flooding in us, and us appropriating it, and us praying, living with those we love, working out our salvation. Happiness is really a very easy thing to attain if we only have faith in God. But you just remember to thank God for the things He gives you, for those you love, for the mercy that He has shown you in leading you to the church, and helping you. And you must also remember, based upon the knowledge of how merciful God is, seeing how He has worked in your life, to have faith that He will help in all things.

Ask Him for things that are important to you. We've talking about things that touch your heart, that burn within you.

In other words, be like that blind beggar who knew that his only hope was in Jesus Christ.  Refuse to give up in prayer for the Lord’s mercy, as well as in whatever types of fasting and almsgiving you are able to do at this point your life.  Use your weakness in all of these endeavors as food for your humility, and get on with the daily life of faith and faithfulness as the Lord strengthens and focuses your spiritual sight as He sees fit. Amen .