

# A Year of Renewal

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time Oct. 24/25

## God's presence/call in my personal history

*During the Year of Renewal, it is suggested you take notes and keep them in a notebook regarding your thoughts, reflections, prayers, or as you think of or answer questions. Developing the practice of keeping a journal is a good way to do this.*

## Readings from the Liturgy:

*Prayerfully read Jeremiah 31: 7-9,  
Psalm 126: 1-6 and Mark 10: 46-52.*

**The** reading from Jeremiah is a joyful prophecy of the restoration of the Jewish people from the Exile. Jeremiah's description of this "second exodus" includes imagery that had by Jesus' time become characteristic of the coming of the Messiah. In particular, the inclusion of the blind, the lame and women and children was portrayed by the Gospel writers as convincing proof of Jesus' messianic identity.

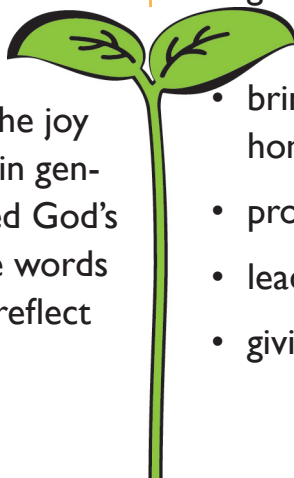
The Psalm is an expression of the joy felt by the returning exiles and in general by all who have experienced God's saving hand in their lives. These words could easily be our own as we reflect on God's love for us.

The story of Bartimaeus' cure or the blind man from Jericho is placed in Mark's Gospel just before Jesus enters Jerusalem. Jesus cures the physical blindness of the man who has already "recognized" Jesus as the "Son of David." In regaining his physical sight Bartimaeus chose to use his new found sight to follow Jesus along the road.

## Recognizing God in Our Experiences

Experiences in life are often expressed in images. The Scriptures for this week-end of the Year of Renewal use a variety of images to portray God's actions. For the following describe the images that express how God has acted with care toward you or those whom you know.

- gathering people from the ends of the earth
- bringing people back to their homeland
- providing a level path for walking
- leading to a stream of water
- giving sight to the blind



## Reflection QUESTIONS

**Some** parts of our bodies, like our eyes, seem more mysterious than others. We can study the eye and learn how it works and what makes it healthy or ill. We can even help the eye to see better with glasses, contact lenses or even through surgery. But we find it difficult to comprehend the real mystery of seeing. Our eyes bring the outside world in to us, and our eyes can also mirror our inside world out to others.

What do people see when they look into our eyes? Can people see, by looking into our eyes, if we are kind, merciful, loving, and forgiving? Or do they see hardness, judgment, cynicism, or meanness? Or do they see both?

## ACTION

**Look** carefully and purposefully at the people and things in your life during this second segment of YOR.

Look for the beauty in everyone and everything, even in negative encounters daily. At the end of each day write down some of the beauty you have seen.

## P of the week PRAYER

*Help me, O God, to see your world in awe and wonder and to see your people through kind and gentle eyes. Give me the gift of seeing your truth and goodness in others. Amen.*

## A Family ACTIVITY on the images of God

Begin by reading Mark 10:46-52 and ask:

- Which people in the Scripture story seem to be “insiders?”
- Who is on the “outside?”
- Who learned the biggest lesson: the insiders or the outsider?

Think about some of the “outsiders” in our family, school, neighborhood, etc. What can we learn from them?

Try to look differently at those whom we consider “outsiders.” In our prayers, let us ask God, “What do you want to teach us about these people?”

Follow up with an occasional discussion in the car or at supper. Are there any new ideas on what we can learn from “outsiders?”

**Young Adults** might consider reading the book *The outsiders* by S E Hinton. Written in the mid sixties it was both revered and banned by schools. This book offers a great deal of discussion material and is now required reading at the middle school level in many districts.

