

Well Britany, here we are in the middle of Lent and the waters of Baptism will give you new sight, just as the Siloam waters opened the man's eyes.

And you will be asked use that sight to carry the light of Christ into a world where darkness lurks.

So you, and all of us, in today's liturgical celebration and the remaining days of Lent, have an opportunity to check our vision.

We can look back and reflect on what choices we have made in our lives.

When and where did we prefer shadows, illusions and darkness?

How have we been blinded by the glare of other lights, by their dazzle and allure?

What caused us to go off the road, like a person blinded by headlights while driving?

Do we see the value of others based upon their looks, power, and influence, while overlooking those labeled as insignificant and dispensable.

You all have probably experienced taking a walk alone on a warm summer evening.

Walking on a beach, a mountain trail, or thru a park looking out to the west.

I did that this last week and watched a gorgeous desert sunset.

Darkness comes so slowly that one hardly notices it.  
Especially when distracted by the colors the setting sun gives off.

The dying light is mesmerizing.  
You don't want to see it end.

But before you know it, the sun is gone and it is dark.

Without the light, you could get lost easily in an unfamiliar place.

Watch out for that rock that might trip you up.

Careful not to step in that mud hole you saw.

Which direction am I going?

Where did I leave the car?

It's a lot like life isn't it?

The light of Christ in us can go out gradually and imperceptibly as we are distracted by the attractions, the "glow" of whatever.

We focus on our own needs; want to have it all now; stay independent and avoid ties that "limit" us; attend to our schedule and plans.

Like watching a setting sun, we can be dazzle by the allure of the neon light that we think will never go out.

Eventually though, we have less and less light to see by and guide our steps and we find ourselves tripping up daily.

Once solid relationships show cracks and familiar patterns of life, like family, faith and community.

No longer are our priorities what they used to be.

Maybe Mass, prayer, and service are not as regular as they once were.

The light of Christ within us slowly fades.

Jesus saw the danger of that happening to his disciples in their struggle against the world's darkness: "The night comes," he warns them, "when no one can work." But he also reassures them and us, "I am the light of the world."

Just as the man's initial sight was not the end of his coming to the light, so it is with us. Our darkness is replaced in baptism by the light of Christ.

But whether we were baptized as infants or later in our lives, the washing in the pool was just the first step.

In our second Reading, St. Paul, suggests that the task ahead is to live as "children of light."

Easier said than done.

Left on our own, we know this is not possible.

But we were not left on our own after we left the baptismal pool. And Britany you will not be left alone either.

Jesus is there to accompany us on our way and bring us back when we are lost in the dark.

We look His light to be children of the Light. With a capital L.

We need that Light because, like the blind man, we are daily challenged by an unbelieving world.

At the Easter Vigil we will be invited to turn to the baptismal pool and sign ourselves with the water.

This is not a rebaptism.

It is a renewed commitment to the One who is the Light and who guides us in a world that requires us to daily distinguish light from darkness.