

**30<sup>th</sup> Sunday B cycle 10-25-15 Story of Bartimaeus from the Gospel of Mark 10: 46-52**

**My brothers and sisters,  
As followers of Christ,  
as people redeemed in his blood,  
as those who are gifted with his Spirit,  
we are called to be people of joy.**

**Why is it so hard today to be a disciple of Christ , to live with a joyful spirit and a loving heart?**

**I believe it is because so many people around us are living lives filled with low grade depression and quiet desperation. There are signs of this depression and desperation all around us.**

- People find it difficult just to get out of bed.**
- They don't greet one another.**
- We do not listen to each other**
- So many live lives filled with anger, self- hate and despair.**

**Yet we know, brothers and sisters, that a quality which marks a person as a disciple of Christ is JOY. When you come to church, do we find people filled with joy, or do they look grim and beaten down?**

**PAUSE**

**There are many reasons to be filled with joy today.**

- **Sr. Rita and Sr. Rosalie from convent are celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary as religious (two others : Sr. Ellen and Sr. Joanne celebrated 60 last year.)**
- **This week I saw a bulldozer on Evergreen: Ove the last two years the City of Detroit has taken over 30 houses torn down just between 6 and 7 Mile Road.**
- **This past summer our neighborhood hood organization, O’Hair Park has boarded up 40 houses in our square mile.**
- **Thursday evening at our neighborhood meeting two neighbors requested or help to help form new block clubs.**
- **In the last six months there has been a much better response of City of Detroit to needs of community.**
  - **Tree in front of church**
  - **Arrest of young man murdered by hit and run**
  - **The School question in Detroit is taking front stage in the city and state**

**Reasons for joy in today’s readings:**

- **1<sup>st</sup> reading: after 100 years of captivity, the people are returning to their homeland**
- **Compassion and mercy of God towards the blind man Bartimaeus.**

**For those committed to Jesus, ultimate victory is assured. There may be much struggle until we get there.**

**The question today is how to we change our lives from those of quiet desperation to being filled with joy?**

**Let us turn to today's gospel and listen to the story of a blind man so that we can see better what God wants for us. We are called to be disciples of Jesus and follow the lead of Bartimaeus, the blind beggar. He definitely was leading a life of quite depression an anger.**

**Have you ever studied the face of people who are begging for money at the entrances of expressways? Their weathered faces are so pathetic that we hardly want to look at them. Their skin is often baked by the heat, darkened by exposure to the sun, and cracked by the cold. Here we find Bartimaeus, sitting on the side of the road, waiting at the gate of the city for people to pass by. This morning, my brothers and sisters, let us listen closely to the story of how moves from despair to joy.**

1. Throw off our garments of depression, anger and self hate.
2. Plead for the Lord's mercy. "Son of David, have mercy on me!"  
We cannot do it alone. We need to do it on our own but we do not need to do it alone. Need for community. AA, self help groups, faith community.
3. Seek him in all we do. Go after him. Let NO ONE stop us.  
Approach him; he is calling us.
4. His question to us when we approach him is a simple one: "What do you want me to do for you?" Let him know what we need; reveal your heart to him through prayer and especially the sacrament of reconciliation.
5. "Go your faith has saved you": Accept his healing presence.
6. Abandoned our old ways of living and follow him with joy.
  - "He Followed him "on the way", the way of his Passion-death-resurrection.

Take time this week to pray over this wonderful story of Bartimaeus, the blind beggar turned joyful disciple of the Lord. Reflect on the six steps Bartimaeus took by reviewing them on our web site where the homilies are listed. May his witness allow us to throw off lives of quiet desperation and be clothed with the joy of following the Lord.