

OCTOBER 2015

30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

### BARTIMAEUS, THE PARAGON OF FAITH

Bartimaeus grasps who Jesus is, using words “Son of David”.

The title to him indicates that Jesus is God’s agent and that he, despite his blindness, is able to discern that Jesus is especially able to show mercy.

GOSPEL: Mark: 10; 46-52

SCRIPTURE FOCUS: Bartimaeus discerns that despite social rungs, there is no limit to the range of compassion and grace of Jesus. He, a blind beggar persists, yelling louder and louder, until Jesus hears him and in hearing, tells those who wish to silence him to bring him close. Bartimaeus, casting off the cloak of the beggar, asks the right thing, a simple request, “That I might see again”, confident in Jesus’ mission to open the eyes to the new spiritual, social and material realities when God reigns. Jesus, in healing says literally, “Your faith has saved you”.

- *How do you respond when a beggar approaches you? Why?*

FAITH FOCUS: The blind man incident reveals something important about how God interacts with us. He was determined to get Jesus’ attention and was persistent in the face of opposition. Jesus could have rebuffed him because he was disturbing his talk and his audience. Jesus showed that acting was more important than talking, in recognizing Bartimaeus’s desperate need and was ready, not only to empathize with the suffering, but to relieve it as well. A great speaker can command attention, but a man or women with a helping hand and a loving heart is loved more. Jesus commends Bartimaeus for recognizing who he (Jesus) is, with the eyes of faith and grants him physical sight as well.

*Do you recognize your need for God’s healing grace and do you seek Jesus out, like Bartimaeus with persistent faith and trust in his goodness and mercy?*

If Jesus asked you, “What do you want me to do for you?” What would you ask?

In what area of your life would you ask Jesus to open your eyes, so that you might see more clearly?

### PRAYER

LORD, May I never fail to recognize my need for your grace. Help me to take advantage of opportunities you give me to seek your presence daily and to listen attentively to your word.. Amen.