Sight to the blind:

4th. Sunday of Lent

March 20, 2017

Readings:

1 Samuel 16,1. 6-7.10-13

Psalm 23: 1-6

Ephesians 5: 8-14

John 9: 1-41

God sees things differently from us, as we heard in today's first reading. Jesus illustrates this in the Gospel: the blind acquires sight and the Pharisees become blind. The blind man represents all mankind. He, who "is born whole in sin" (he is made a new creature through the saving power of Christ).

Just as God formed the first man from earth's clay (cf. Genesis 2, 7), Jesus gives a new life to the blind man by anointing his eyes with clay. (Cf. John 9:11). As God breathe into the first man the spirit of life, the blind man is not healed until he is washed in the waters of Siloam, which means "sent." Jesus is the "Envoy" of the Father to fulfill his will (cf. John 9,4, 12,44). He is the new source of life-giving water: the Spirit that is poured out upon us in Baptism (cf. John 4,10, 7,38,39).

This is the Spirit that comes upon the king chosen by God in the first reading. David is a shepherd, as Moses was before him (cf. Exodus 3,1; Psalm 78: 70,71); He is also a figure of the Good Shepherd, the king who is to come: Jesus (cf. John 10,11).

The Lord is our shepherd, as we sang in the psalm of today. By his death and resurrection he has opened a way for us through the dark valley of sin and death, leading us to the green pastures of the kingdom of life, the Church. He has refreshed our souls in the quiet waters of Baptism. He has anointed our heads with the oil of Confirmation; has prepared before us the table of the Eucharist and has filled our cup to the edges.

With which he was once blind, we entered his house to give praise to God, to renew our vow: "I believe, Lord." Today we hear that "the Lord looks at the heart". May He find us living as children of the light; always trying to learn what pleases our Father, as St. Paul advises in the epistle of this day