

# COLUMNISTS

## Jesus cures our spiritual blindness

**Sunday's Readings:** (R3) John 9:1-41. (R1) 1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13. (R2) Ephesians 5:8-14.

The theme of Sunday's readings is light.

At first, Samuel doesn't see the light: He fails to see that you can't tell a book by its cover. St. Paul said, "Live as children of light." Walk in the light of faith.

In the Gospel a blind man is given double vision: sight, so that he could rejoin the community of people; and insight, so that he could have the light of faith to follow Jesus the Light of the World.

But it is important to note that Jesus saw the blind man. So often when we see people in need, we shy away from them or hurriedly pass them by. It is not that we are unkind. We just don't know how to react.

How we juggle the English language around just so we won't hurt feelings. We have hyphenated and labeled some Americans: African-Americans; Native Americans; Japanese Americans; Hispanics or Latinos; handicapped or physically challenged.

Why don't we see people as they are, just human beings? Why can't we see beyond color, race, religion, and see that all people are children of the same God, sharing the same destiny? Jesus saw the blind man. He didn't ignore him.

Then Jesus healed the blind man. What a great gift Jesus bestowed upon



a word for sunday

BY FATHER ALBERT SHAMON

this sightless man!

James L. Kraft said his life was changed because a certain kindly eye doctor took notice of him. Kraft was a 14-year-old boy, one of a family of 11, living on a farm in Canada. In his book, *Adventure in Jade*, Kraft relates that he had never been able to distinguish objects clearly.

His nearsightedness was so acute that he assumed that all the earth had the blurry image of a boat seen from under water.

But one summer an eye doctor from the city was vacationing in the vicinity, and Kraft was taking care of the doctor's horse and buggy. Noting Kraft's extreme nearsightedness, the eye doctor insisted he go to the city with him and be fitted with a pair of glasses.

In that gift of glasses, Kraft gratefully recalls, that doctor "gave me the earth and all that was in it, completely in focus

and beautiful beyond anything I could have dreamed ... I cannot think of another act of human kindness in my lifetime which can compare with his."

The blind man Jesus healed undoubtedly felt the same way about Jesus. In fact when he discovered it was Jesus who had healed him, he fell down before him and worshiped him.

What Jesus did in his day, he still does in our day. There are all kinds of healing — physical, emotional, relationships between people. Jesus healed the blind man. How easily we forget that.

Many people — good people — carry around burdens of pain, of hurt, of ailments, that could be lifted if only they would take seriously the idea that Jesus does heal.

Did not Jesus say, "Take up my yoke and your burden will be light"? A yoke is a wooden harness for two oxen. Jesus meant we should never try to carry our burdens alone. His head is in the yoke as well as ours. Just as one ox could not pull the wagon, so alone we cannot shoulder our burdens. Without Jesus we can do nothing; with Jesus, there is nothing we cannot do.

The central teaching of the Gospel about the blind man is that losing one's sight is a tragic thing, but far more tragic is having healthy eyes and being spiritually sightless. Many people see with their eyes; very few see with their hearts.

The Gospel story is a play upon the

twin themes of physical blindness and spiritual blindness. At the end of the story, the enemies of Jesus ask, "Surely we are not also blind, are we?"

The answer is yes.

So often we are spiritually blind. We really don't see the members of our own family. We really don't see our neighbors. We don't see the needs of others.

But worse still, so often we really don't see God. Like the blind man, let us pray: "Lord, may I see — my family, my friends, others, even you, my God."

Father Shamon is administrator of St. Isaac Jogues Chapel, Fleming, N.Y.

### Daily Readings

Monday, March 18

Isaiah 65:17-21; John 9:1-41

Tuesday, March 19

2 Samuel 7:4-5, 12-14, 16; Romans

4:13, 16-18, 22; Matthew 1:16

18-21, 24; or Luke 2:41-51

Wednesday, March 20

Isaiah 49:8-15; John 5:17-30

Thursday, March 21

Exodus 32:7-14; John 5:31-47

Friday, March 22

Wisdom 2:1-19, 22;

John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday, March 23

Jeremiah 17:18-20; John 7:40-53

## Voters deserve truly honest political ads

I had a weird dream the other night.

In it, I visited friends who were staying at a hotel and met them in the hotel's restaurant. For some reason, the food was free if you were staying at the hotel, and the waitress asked me if I was staying with my friends. In my dream I made a mental reservation that, since I was at the time "staying" with my friends in the restaurant, I could answer the question, "Yes." The waitress understood, of course, that I was a guest of the hotel and did not charge me for the meal.

Still dreaming, I then realized that I had lied and stolen and had to make restitution. So I went back to the restaurant, confessed my sin and paid for the



faith & work

BY GREGORY F. AUGUSTINE PIERCE

meal. (And, boy, was I embarrassed.)

Then I woke up, and the first thing that entered my mind was the current political campaign for the presidency. What could my dream possibly have to

do with that?

After thinking about it for a while, I realized the connection. This campaign is already full of negative advertising that relies on half-truths, mental reservations and outright falsehoods. The usual justifications are that everyone else is doing it and that the end justifies the means. Besides, the politicians say, people don't take the ads all that seriously and, anyway, it is the public's job to sort out the truths from the lies.

None of these rationalizations, however, is morally defensible. Just as in my dream tricking the waitress into giving me a free meal was wrong, so is it wrong for politicians and their advisors to trick the electorate.

I would never, for example, steal money directly from a cash register at a restaurant, even if there was absolutely no chance of being caught. In the same way, I cannot steal by misleading someone, even if I do not technically tell a lie.

Likewise, anyone running for public office who would not lie directly to someone, should also not "steal" an election by misleading voters about themselves or their opponents in their advertising.

In my dream, I had to go and pay for my lie. So, I believe, must all politicians who engage in false or half-truth campaign advertising. And, boy, should they be embarrassed.

Pierce is co-publisher of ACTA Publications, Chicago.

## CATHOLIC COURIER CLASSIFIEDS

### GENERAL

#### Announcements

**ADOPTIONS** The Catholic Courier does not publish adoption advertising. To obtain a list of agencies that serve birth mothers and adoptive parents, call 716-328-4340. Agencies wishing to be included on this list may send information to the Catholic Courier.

#### Greetings

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to my nephew, Michael. From Uncle Bartao—Albert Olivier.

### EMPLOYMENT

#### Help Wanted

**\*ATTN: ROCHESTER\*** Postal positions. Permanent full-time for clerk/sorters. Full benefits. For exam, application and salary info. call: 708-264-1839 ext. 5678 8 am to 8 pm.

### EMPLOYMENT

#### Help Wanted - Part Time

**PART TIME SITTER** Some nights and weekends. 1 child and 2 friendly dogs. Call 716-227-8619.

### MERCHANDISE

#### Wanted to Buy

**Marlyn's Antiques**  
Top cash paid for old wood furniture, clocks, glass and china, sterling, crocks, quilts, etc. One item or complete household. We make house calls.  
647-2480

### PROPERTY

#### Lodging to Share

**ROOMMATE WANTED** Single male non-smoker to share modern 2-bedroom townhome in Greece (just off 104) with owner. Fully equipped. \$350/month includes heat. Call 716-723-1191.

### SERVICES

#### Ceiling Repair

**TEXTURED/SWIRLED CEILINGS** 9' x 12' ceiling only \$59. Water Damage, drywall, plaster repairs. Expert painting and wallpapering. Quality work; reasonable prices. 716-392-5076.

#### Electricians

**NOLAN ELECTRIC**  
FOR ALL YOUR ELECTRICAL NEEDS  
Fully licensed & insured  
107 ROUGE ROAD  
334-6350

### SERVICES

#### Heating & Air Conditioning

**Hicks Home Heating**  
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Heating & Air Conditioning Specialists  
• Sales • Service • Installation  
Family Owned & Operated  
424-4848

#### Masonry

**AMERICAN MASONRY & CHIMNEY SERVICE**  
ALL MASONRY WORK  
865-4170 663-7360

### SERVICES

#### Moving & Hauling

**K-D Moving and Storage Inc.**  
Experience in office, household moving and deliveries  
Big or Small, We Do Them All  
473-6610 or 473-4357

#### Painting & Wallcovering

**AL MEYVIS, JR.** Basement walls repaired/painted. Prevent pests/cold air from getting in. 323-2876 or 392-4435.

### SERVICES

#### Plumbing

**CASSIDY Plumbing and Heating**  
• Licensed, Bonded  
• Bathroom Remodeling  
• No Service Charges  
• Free Estimates  
• Senior Citizen Discount  
11 Comfort St.  
Rochester, NY 232-2000

#### Roofing Siding & Gutters

**BOWMAN ROOFING & SIDING CO.**  
Established 1912  
• Roof Repairs • Siding  
• Replacement Windows  
• Seamless Aluminum Gutters  
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