

Seeing Clearly in Faith

My Brothers and Sisters in the Risen Lord,

A classic scene from a comedy movie comes to mind: two characters, both hopelessly lost, insist they know where they're going. Their confident blunders lead them deeper into confusion until they finally plunge headlong into a predicament they could have avoided. It's a lighthearted reminder of a serious truth Jesus highlights in Luke 6: "Can a blind person guide a blind person? Will not both fall into a pit?"

Jesus warns us against spiritual blindness, particularly the kind fueled by pride and lack of humility. It's easy to spot the flaws in others but much harder to recognize our own. Psychologists call this "projection"—the tendency to attribute our shortcomings to others. This bias protects our fragile egos, but it also blinds us to our need for growth and healing. Jesus's words invite us to look inward before we judge outwardly: "Why do you notice the splinter in your brother's eye but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own?"

This blindness is especially dangerous for those who consider themselves "pious" but fail to examine their own hearts. Pride can deceive us into thinking we're guides for others when, in truth, we're stumbling ourselves. As followers of Christ, we're called to choose our spiritual guides wisely—those who live the faith authentically, whose actions speak louder than words. In a world saturated with voices claiming authority, discernment is crucial. A true guide "walks the walk," embodying humility, love, and wisdom.

Why is judgmentalism so rampant, even among Christians? Perhaps it's because we often see the world through blurry lenses clouded by self-righteousness or fear. Instead of extending charity, we project our insecurities onto others. Yet Jesus calls us to a higher standard: "A good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good. . . for from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks." If we fill our hearts with God's love, kindness, and mercy, there will be no room for harsh judgment.

As we approach Lent, a season of reflection and renewal, let us ask the Lord to help us see clearly. Let us pray for hearts flooded with his mercy, so we may think the best of others and grow in love. Judgment blinds us; love illuminates.

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry offers a fitting conclusion to these reflections: "And now here is my secret, a very simple secret: It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye."

This week, may we strive to see with our hearts—clearly, humbly, and lovingly—so that we may guide and be guided on the path to holiness.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Rudy