

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of Easter “The Gift of Light”  
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April 20, 2020

Today is 40 days since that Wednesday when Governor Inslee issued social distancing laws for the state of Washington. I was about to go into a Lenten reconciliation service at St. Louise when I was listening to him speak on the radio. That reconciliation service was the last “public service” I think I “participated” in...everything else has been private since. The old Venetian dialect for 40 days is quarantino, where we get the word quarantine. It was back in the days ships and their sailors had to stay on their boat out on the harbor before being able to come ashore. Even in the middle ages, there existed the common sense about preventing disease. It looks like our quarantine will be longer than 40 days, but I am heartened by how many of our parishioners are staying connected through Instagram and our Website. It is a dark time but Christ remains our light.

I love that detail in our Gospel Reading from John’s Gospel. When Nicodemus seeks out Jesus, it was night time. This is code in this Gospel that Nicodemus hadn’t come to full faith in Jesus. He is curious about him, he is in fact visiting him and questioning him...but he still isn’t ready for full discipleship. And the conversation turns to how do we enter into a relationship with Jesus as his disciple? The journey begins with baptism. By the waters of baptism we are reborn spiritually and we are welcomed into the inner life of God. And that faith experience, of knowing we live in the inner life of God as baptized followers of Jesus, gives us a new sight as we make our way through this world. No matter how dark things can get, a relationship with Jesus shines light in the darkness and the darkness will not overcome it.

And so, as our quarantino continues for however more days, if the world seems to be getting darker right now in the news or in our relationships or simply in our souls right now...if we are worried about any of that somehow, the invitation perhaps is to remember today that we have been baptized by the waters of rebirth and we are configured to Christ. This means, if we open our hearts to him today, we might be illuminated and given the opportunity to see this day, our world and our place in it in a radically new way. Like I said, no matter how dark things can get, we will not lose hope. A relationship with Jesus shines light into whatever darkness we find ourselves in and the darkness will never triumph if we stay close to him!