

26 Sunday Ordinary Time C 2016
September 25
Frazee/Callaway

For the year of mercy, Bishop Hoepfner is offering a talk on Mercy in all of the deaneries. He will be in Callaway on Wednesday, October 5. The parish is offering a simple meal at 6:30 PM and Bishop's talk is at 7:15. Please join us if you can. There is no registration—just come! My thanks to the people of Assumption for hosting this event.

Some time ago a friend from St. Cloud, came to the rectory for lunch. As she washed the dishes I noticed the filthy sponge that has been sitting on the edge of the sink for two years. It is so gross that I quit using it yet it never occurred to me to throw it away.

A guest caused me to look at my house in new ways. What I had become blind to, I could see all too clearly. Before Jayne washed the first plate I quietly reached for the sponge and dropped it in the garbage.

The rich man in the gospel (Lk 16:19-31) had trouble with his eyes, too. It makes perfect sense to me that he simply didn't see Lazarus lying at his door. People in need can become just another part of the landscape. Like old barns with sagging roofs, like dead trees in shelterbelts, like garbage cans on the edge of the lawn: we pass them every day and we get used to seeing them. And then something frightening happens: one day we pass the same site and we don't see its unsightliness anymore.

Lazarus—the rich man might not have even noticed him. According to the gospel, God holds us accountable for what we see AND for what we should have seen.

What do you see when you walk out your door? Do you see the 9,861 children killed by abortion last year in our state? Do you see the lonely elderly and the lonely young? Do you see the brokenness of the young people who sell their bodies as pornography? Do you see children hungry for food and affection? Do you see the couples struggling in marriage and in need of your support? Do you see the mentally ill and everyone else with a broken mind or spirit or body? A friend standing at my sink opened my eyes to what I could not see. What will open our eyes to see the people God wants us to see?

The gospel assures us that justice will have the last word, that people who do not enjoy their fair share of the blessings of this world will receive them in the next. This, I'm sure, is a comfort to many. Yet Christians understand that Jesus has given us a commission: to build his kingdom of justice here and now.

In a few moments we will receive the Body and Blood of Jesus. We look at bread and wine, broken and shared, and see our Savior. If we have eyes to see Jesus here, surely we will look at this world's broken ones and Jesus there, too.