



Reflection from Fr. Garry Richmeier

I recently had the cataract removed from one eye. Before that, I thought I was seeing pretty normally. Things didn't look strange or anything. After the surgery, I was able to compare what I saw with that eye, with the eye that hadn't been done yet. I then realized that the corrected eye could see things as they really are -- white was really white! The other eye sees things with a yellowish tint that I'd never noticed before. I'll be having surgery on the other eye soon. I guess as the cataracts gradually grew, I hadn't noticed my eyesight getting gradually dimmer.

It is pretty human to get used to things if they persist and grow slowly over time. The danger is that we can get used to some pretty awful things, taking them as "normal," and not thinking anything needs to be done about them. One would think that war would be so horrendous that humans would never get used to it. But we have. Gun violence is another example. Mass shootings nowadays merit only a couple sentences on the nightly news or social media news feed. The growing economic gap between the richest and the poorest is reported with the same concern as the stock market report.

Jesus was executed because he challenged the sinful status quo that people (especially those in power) had become accustomed to. He shone a light on the hypocrisy of how the religious authorities used people to get what they wanted, and he highlighted how the civil authorities used power and control to manipulate people. He encouraged people to give their allegiance to a higher power, the power of God's love, which would naturally change the status quo. But that meant that they had to "see" differently, and recognize a different reality.

If we are to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, we can't let everything that becomes "normal" cloud our vision and become complacent in accepting what is unjust and immoral. Even if we can't change what is wrong at this particular time, we are still called to see it clearly for what it is, and be vocal about it. If we do, we may get crucified in some ways. But we follow a good leader down a good path, and we know that the path leads eventually to new life.

Peace,
Fr. Garry