

**30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
October 25, 2009**

**J.A. Loftus, S.J.**

**Family–childrens’–Mass Notes  
(Not a complete text; only starting points for discussion.)**

Were lots of you here last week? I was hiding in the back–over by the door–listening-in. Anybody see me? Yes! Fr. Bob started about nick-names. Remember? Like Jealous Jerry (with a “J”)?

And then he had Jerry read a Gerard Manley Hopkins poem (that’s Gerard with a “G”). I told him later that I could not believe he actually read a whole Hopkins poem to children. But I remembered it all week. (It’s nice when someone remembers anything you say!)

Then I read this weeks’ readings and thought about it all again. Anyone guess why? Any nick-names in today’s gospel? What do you think his friends might have called Bartimaeus? Yes, Bart. And he’s the hero of today’s story. Good old Bart. Or maybe they called him “Tim.” Who knows?

But whenever there are stories about blind people getting their sight back from Jesus, there is always another kind of “sight” Jesus is talking about. It’s not just physical sight. But something deeper, something different. It’s about seeing not just with your eyes, but *seeing with your heart*.

Anyone see with their heart? I bet you do. Like when you see how much your parents love you. Or your friends. Or sometimes when you just look around at how beautiful some things are that God gives us. And this is a great time of the year to look around and see God’s love. With your heart–not just your eyes.

And I thought of another Gerard Manley Hopkins poem (it’s even more confusing than the one Jerry read last week, “God’s Grandeur”), but it talks about things God does for us. It goes:

Yet God (that *hews* [a fancy word for makes, builds] mountain and continent, Earth, all out; who with *trickling increment* [meaning little-by-

little] Veins violets and tall trees makes more and more....

Jesus wants us to really see how much God loves us. That's why Bart gets his sight back. To see more. To look at the mountains; look at the violets; look at the trees. Ever just look at a leaf? It's veined like a violet. So cool and beautiful. (Jerry with a "J" collected some for us.) Look outside when you leave. And leaf!