Homily Notes — Rev. Robert Schramm, OSFS
Fourth Sunday of Lent 2017

Last Sunday I went to a presentation at Lourdes University that focused on a documentary movie called "The Sultan and the Saint"

Malik Al Kamil, sultan of Egypt, a Muslim and Francis of Assisi,

The film is a cooperative effort between a Muslim organization, Unity Productions Foundation and Franciscan Action Network

The setting is during the Fifth Crusade in 1219.

Francis and the sultan discover they have more in common than divides them.

The first reading and the Gospel are about people having their eyes opened.

Are you willing to have your eyes opened to the disruptive force of God's Spirit?
Obedience to inspiration, rather than adhering to the usual, the expected.
That's what we've always done.
That's the way we've always done it.

Openness to the unruliness of God's word . . .
We must accept that we are all blind when it comes to seeing the range of God’s possibilities.

Most of us live in an environment, a culture of "white privilege."
Are we willing to see it from another's perspective, to have our eyes opened?

To be baptized is to be enlightened, to come out of the darkness.
What you begin to see is one's relationship with all the baptized, all humanity, all creation, with God. The divisions are erased by the light.

Surgery giving sight to an adult who has never seen.
It takes years to learn how to see.

Baptism is surely an immersion in the water of the Sent One, to see life through new eyes.

The cure of the man born blind is not a restoration, but a new creation.
Saliva and dirt = creation + anointing
Waters wash away blindness = new creation
Annie Sullivan — teacher of Helen Keller

“Children require guidance and sympathy far more than instruction.”

“Keep on beginning and failing. Each time you fail, start all over again, and you will grow stronger until you have accomplished a purpose — not the one you began with perhaps, but one you’ll be glad to remember.”

“My heart is singing for joy this morning! A miracle has happened! The light of understanding has shone upon my little pupil's mind, and behold, all things are changed!”

Ron Rolheiser

“We come out of the darkness and chaos precisely to the extent that we are called out by voices that cajole, caress, reassure, and keep forever luring us beyond ourselves.”

This Eucharist is Jesus’ way of doing just that.