

With the start of this new year,  
those that have



## NOTES FROM THE PASTOR

### "KEEP BOTH EYES ON THE ROAD"

As I shared last week, in my article, bad vision (at an early age) and blue eyes were the Moineau family "claim to fame." Eye glasses were the common (and available) choice for corrective vision as a grade school student. But when I entered high

school coolness was revealed in spectacle wear. Aviator frames with photo-gray lenses made poor eye sight fashionable and the envy to those who had perfect vision. Styling in the halls of SJHS was one thing but on the basketball court eye glasses never held up to the punishment under the boards. Contact lenses became the ticket to looking like a 20/20 vision creature on the court and for that matter the rest of my life. I bought my first pair of lenses in 1977 for \$350!! My first summer job provided the funds! What a great investment.

When I put in my lenses each morning it was the last time of the day that I gave my 20/20 vision a thought. It was nice to be free of that concern, burden and distraction of daily life. I mean I still could wear the "cool glasses" as a fashion statement when styling in my three piece suit and three inch platform heels! But mostly seeing was taken for granted and not remembering what being visually impaired could do to your perspective until one day I lost a lens and I became a "one-eyed seeing car driving DANGER"!!



### One Eye Driving Test

One summer evening I had driven some of my neighborhood friends to a girl's parent's house for a bible study, praise and worship meeting. The gathering, the study, the worship and the girls who attended were not Catholic which made this experience somewhat foreign and strange. We were not so much interested in being ecumenical as we were interested in being with some really pretty girls. Since it was a prayer gathering and not a night of joy riding the car was afforded to me as the vehicle of transportation. While at the meeting amidst joyous tears and praising the Lord my left contact became dislodged and fell out never to be found. The thought of having to replace a lens was secondary to the reality of trying to drive home with only one eye!!



The drive home was dark and complicated by a series of left hand turns in and out of traffic and so for the first time I realized what a **blind spot** looked like. My friends, who I trusted, became my peripheral vision that night and it was a true test of trying to focus on driving "between the lines." I remember I did not put the radio on nor did I permit any nonsense in the car on the way. It took everything I could do to arrive safely home!

### "Keep Both Eyes on the Road"

My Dad use to say to me, when I was driving but distracted by the radio or pedestrians taking a stroll alongside the road: "KEEP BOTH EYES ON THE ROAD!!" I never understood this saying... It was nearly impossible to have one eye on the road and the other looking somewhere else. But when I drove that night with one eye down I knew that he meant focus on one thing and do not let your vision stray to things that don't pertain to "staying on the road." The eyes of Faith are like this saying when it comes to be distracted by temptation and other things that make you veer off the road to eternal

life! The “eyes” of faith work in harmony with each other like the double line on the road and the guide rail at the edge of the cliff. Christ is the double yellow line of direction keeping you from drifting into worldly matters while the guide rail is like a well-formed conscience that keeps you from going over the cliff. Love and Truth are the attributes of safe spiritual driving and both are necessary to stay on the straight and narrow!!! If we only focus on our love of Jesus we may never be tempted to drift into the oncoming traffic of false Gods and self-reliance but if we fail to form our conscience with the truths of His love then the guide rail will give way and we will be certain to fall to our death.

### What does this look like?



**Impaired Spiritual peripheral vision** changes our relationship with Love and Truth. When we fail to remember that all we do and live is out of our love for Jesus things can sneak up on us and when we finally see them it may be too late. That's the purpose of our conscience. Our conscience is our peripheral vision that we are unaware of but yet guides us nevertheless. I never knew how important it was to see at the edge of my vision until it was impaired by a missing lens. It was okay to trust my friends to get me home that night but they could never serve as a good guide every hour of the day. A well-formed conscience does not permit you to veer out of the sight of the double yellow line of Christ love nor does it allow you to brush up against the rail guiding you on the path. Our “two eyes on the road” vision of faith is made up of that peripheral conscience and down the middle of the road of loving Jesus that

makes the journey of faith as smooth as a directed train on rails.

### One eye blurriness

When one eye is blurry whether it be the lack of our true devoted love of Jesus giving way to the world or the concrete profound truth of His teaching being blurred by relativism the journey becomes a nightmare of a drive. Following Christ is a concerted effort of 20/20 vision.

## **Solutions TO 20/20 VISION**

- **Morning offering**- When we start everyday with offering ourselves as an act of love and service to the Lord and our neighbor we reestablish our desire to **“Keep both eyes on the road”**. Consecrating our day to the will of God means following (Jesus) the yellow line on the straight path as well as around the curves that come our way. Our day may start out as a clear path for His will and the work that lies ahead but often fog, rain and winding roads enter the picture that can distract us from our mission. These things look like gossip, impatience and self-reliance. Readjusting our vision allows us to accept what we cannot change and respond to the Grace of God's guidance.
- **Evening Examination of Conscience** – At the end of the day we should reflect on how clear our vision was down the path to holiness. Did I get distracted and let my peripheral vision become blurry or impaired by the choices I made out of comfort or self-gratification. How many times, if you will, did I bump up against that guide rail and teeter into relativism of societies' lack of moral code. A good act of contrition in this case acts like those soothing eye drops that we apply when spending time in that smoke filled room.
- **Don't take your sight for granted** – In the places which we need clear vision should be prepared by applying 20/20 vision. Put on those spectacles via a simple prayer before entering the traffic of route 30, the office building or a family gathering. Sometimes when it gets rough... clean the lenses... with an act of love or replace a lens by activating your conscience as a guide.
- **Regular Checkups** – Sacred Mass is the best way to have your vision checked for focus on the Lord's love as well as the prescription change that can take place in the Sacrament of reconciliation. Many times we do not think we have sinned much or need to go to confession... we think our vision is fine... but after we come out from the confessional we are amazed how much better we can see!!