

# Companions IN PRAYER



Sisters of St. Clare  
Saginaw, MI

## *Bartimaeus and a Prayer of Faith*

In today's Gospel, a blind man, forced to beg because of his disability, hears that Jesus is coming his way. He shouts out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus hears him, calls him, and heals him. "Immediately, the man regains his sight and follows Jesus."

As I read about Bartimaeus calling out for help from Jesus, I was reminded of the scenes we saw on TV during Pope Francis's recent visit to the U.S. He was followed by crowds of people who stretched out their hands for his blessing. The Pope, like Jesus, spoke humbly about the importance of justice and mercy. He sought out the poor and disabled to bless. If I had been in the crowds when Pope Francis was here, I would have been drawn to him and stretched out my hands to touch him hoping to feel his goodness.

I wonder what I would ask Jesus if he heard me call and came to me like he came to Bartimaeus? I would ask for more trust and faith in God's daily divine care. I became aware of this as we recently organized our community files. At one point, I looked over our long history of 25 years as Poor Clare sisters in the Saginaw Diocese, and I became profoundly aware of the continuing, guiding presence of God throughout this time. In hindsight, I wished that I had been more aware of God's daily divine care of us during those 25 years. I wished I had trusted and been able to see more clearly God's presence with us. However, as I looked over the record of our 25 years in Saginaw and saw what God has done for us, I felt healed of my doubts and fears and felt anew God's presence with our community.

I remember making a promise to myself not to fear again, especially about the future. God's hand will be there. You won't be surprised to hear that the truth is, I have already wavered. There are many fears that cloud my vision of faith and confidence, like unexpected illness, financial issues, and negotiating complex relationships. When that happens, I

focus on retrieving the faith and confidence I felt as I looked over the past. I know Jesus is leading. This is my constant prayer of faith.

Like Bartimeaus, we all need faith to see God's hand in our everyday life, and we have to return to that faith daily to prevent it from slipping away. The prayer I find helpful is what I call the prayer of faith. It helps me to acknowledge my needs and to be confident that Jesus is with me.

Let's take time now to pray the prayer of faith and to call on Jesus now for strength.

Close your eyes if that is helpful, and be the blind beggar.

Can you feel in your heart God's care in your life?

Maybe not. Then call out to him in faith. "Jesus show yourself to me."

Let your heart respond to that prayer.



*Blind Bartimaeus* MK 10:46-52

Talk to Jesus about your concerns.

Listen in silence to his response.

Hold that moment for as long as you need.

We will take a few minutes now to hear God.

As we come back to this space and time, like Bartimeaus we bring our desires to have Jesus hear our needs and the needs of others. We know that when we call out to Jesus in our prayers, we are heard and we are healed.

(We are interested in your thoughts. Let us know at: <http://srsclare.com/about-us/companions-in-prayer-newsletter>)

*Sr. Laura and Sisters*

(Given at St. Peter Parish, Chesaning MI and St. Cyril Parish, Bannister, MI)