

Greetings to all those who are on this faith journey,

**SCRIPTURE:**

1 Corinthians 13:12 (MSG) – Larger reading: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

*“We don't yet see things clearly. We're squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won't be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright! We'll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing him directly just as he knows us!”*

**STORY:**

“The greatest thing a human soul ever does in this world is to see in a plain way,” said John Ruskin in *Modern Painters*. “Hundreds of people can talk for one who can think, but thousands can think for one who can see. To see clearly is poetry, prophecy, and religion – all in one.”

**OBSERVATION:**

It dawned on me some years ago, after church one Sunday, as people filed out of worship, that my singular task is to help them see a truth that they might have missed otherwise ... and to share it in a clear concise way as to leave little doubt otherwise. Boy, it really requires a trusting in the leading of the Holy Spirit doesn't it. It also requires a keen awareness that there are other truths to be discovered on any biblical or theological issue.

Most of us have our minds already made up. We see what we want to see. Don't confuse me with the facts. We've constructed our own little worlds. We are very comfortable living within that world. Further, we listen only to those “talking-heads” which support our construct finding different ways to lay blame at the feet of others if our “world” somehow fails and falls apart.

A wise individual would readily admit that in this world we do not see things clearly. It is as if we have a perpetual case of cataracts that no surgeon can remove. We are stuck living in a fog. Within that context, we really do need to trust the leading of the Holy Spirit and be open, truly open, to where the Spirit of God will lead us. We need to be ready to change. We should be eager to expose ourselves to a new way of thinking, acting, being ... and strike out on a new course in life.

Living a life of faith should be a new daily adventure ... a day of discovery ... with our eyes wide open and a flexible spirit. We should be ready for spiritual whiplash as God changes our direction.

**QUOTE:**

*“The purpose of sacred wandering is to explore the foundation of our faith. To prove if it's authentic. Whether your faith is like sinking sand or a solid rock, Christ wants to take you on an adventure. His desire is to spiritually strengthen you.”* – Dana Arcuri

**PRAYER:**

Come Holy Spirit, open our eyes that we might see, open our ears that we might hear, open our hearts that we might understand, open us to new horizons and new possibilities in our life. Pull us out of our old ways of thinking and doing so that we can all that you have created us to be.

And the faith journey continues, Pastor Jim  
Jmartin450@tampabay.rr.com  
386-795-5323

***This Sunday is the First Sunday of Advent. The first candle of the Advent Wreath is the candle of Hope. As we light that candle we will be looking at the mother of Jesus, Mary, and how God turned her life upside down and Mary discovered Hope ... maybe we're next.***