

“John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said, Behold the Lamb of God...”

As I wait in the grocery line, the checkout lane is filled with those silly gossip magazines about the exploits of the rich and famous. The TV talk shows and insider gossip features fill us with the comings and goings of the jet-set. Keeping track of the beautiful people is also about what we value as people.

Too often we experience our lives as mundane, ordinary and simply boring. We long to live in the fast lane and run with the famous. After all, what faces us each day are stacks of papers, diapers and overdue bills. The world of the celebrity seems so inviting.

In the midst of so many competing, alluring and unchristian images it takes great wisdom to value the things that really matter. For so much of our discontent and inner anxiety comes from not seeing and recognizing the very grace of God at work in our lives. To recognize God at work in our midst first requires that we recognize the truth of our own condition -- we are needy.

The gift of seeing Jesus in all things is a gift which must be nurtured through a life of prayer. To see Jesus in the family member, the co-worker, one's fellow students at school, the next-door neighbor and even the enemy is a great grace. Such sight--really insight--helps us to see how near God is to us at every moment. We need not be envious of the rich and famous. Ours is a gift more precious ---- the grace to see every day the loving God who makes us whole and gives us peace.

Fr. John Nolan  
Pastor

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