

In the first weeks of life when things go well for us, our Mother has a special oneness with us. She feeds us when we are hungry. She provides warmth when we are cold. She comforts us when we are upset and agitated. She changes our diapers and bathes us when the need is present. It's an amazing gift we experience from her. It's a unique time in our life. It's very magical. We receive without asking. We are satisfied before we know what we need.

Too soon that time comes to an end. We have to begin to let her and others know our needs and wants. However, we never lose the longing within us for someone to read our mind, to know our desires without our having to speak them.

There is a part within us that yearns for others to know what we want for our birthday, for Christmas, for our anniversary, for any occasion without our having to say what we would like.

In the Gospel, Jesus shows loving and reverential respect for the blind man. Jesus does not presume to know what Bartimaeus wants. Jesus asks in all genuineness, sincerity and humility: "What do you want me to do for you?" And Bartimaeus gets to speak his deepest longing: "Let me see again." Only he knows what he wants. Only he can speak his desire to Jesus.

What about us? How do we respond to Jesus asking us: "What do you want me to do for you?"

Jesus so loves us that He asks us that same question every day. We get to speak for ourselves. We are free to express to Jesus the wants of our lives, the deepest longings of our souls, the hungers of our hearts, the desires of our bodies.

My sisters and brothers, Jesus respectfully and patiently waits for us to respond to His question: "What do you want me to do for you?" How are we going to reply?