

# Lord Help Me See!

Homily by Fr. Jordan Berghouse, Archdiocese of Milwaukee

*For Cor Jesu*

A few months ago, I had the opportunity to go to Tucson, Arizona, for a faith and science pilgrimage. Tucson is a central point for astronomy studies with some of the world's leading astronomers there, teaching at the University of Arizona by day, and star gazing at one of the numerous observatories by night. Even the Vatican has an observatory there!

I didn't major in science in college, so all of this was totally new to me. We had an opportunity to visit an observatory one evening at the top of Kitt Peak. Two things really amazed me while we were up there. First of all, when the sun goes down there were no lights allowed. None! We had to turn our cell phones off, and if we had to use the bathroom we could only navigate around with a red flashlight. When there is no light your pupils dilate, receiving more light, allowing you to see the stars more clearly.

Another thing I was fascinated by was how much is in the sky. There are so many stars! It just goes on and on and on. I was made very aware of this when we observed the constellation called the Seven Sisters of Pleiades. This is a constellation just to the right of Orion's Belt. Interestingly, in Japanese, the name for this constellation is *Subaru*. With the naked eye, you can see six stars in this constellation (some scientists think that years ago you may have been able to see seven which is where the constellation got its name). However, when you look at this constellation through binoculars or a telescope, boom! You can see hundreds and hundreds of stars! They were there the whole time! But there was only so much that we could see on our own with the naked eye.

Our human sight is limited.

This is true about faith and life too, isn't it? We see the six stars and we think, I've got it! I see them! I finally get it! It all makes sense. I understand the truth! We begin with just seeds of faith, seeds of truth. But then, we go deeper, and see more stars, and we

think to ourselves, "Oh my goodness! I had no idea these were there. This is beautiful. There is so much more here that I didn't realize!"

Our sight is limited. There are truths that we can see with the naked eye. But we are fooling ourselves if we think that what we can see is all that is there. We need help to go deeper. We need help to see further. We need a telescope or binoculars to see farther into the deep and dark depths of the sky. And that telescope is Jesus.

So, if there is ever a teaching of the Church that you don't quite understand, that makes you uncomfortable, before you discount it, remember that our sight is limited. There is only so much that we can see on our own.

In order to deepen the roots of faith, in order to allow the seed of Jesus to grow, like we did on the top of Kitt Peak, we've got to turn off all the lights! Turn off all the lights in prayer so that you can see more clearly. Enter into the silence with the Lord and ask him to be your telescope. Recognize our limitations in seeing and understanding, and pray, "Lord, help me to see."