

# Marist Minute

As I stood in a crowded bus, a passenger boarded and was offered a seat by a younger woman. It was clearly the end of a long day for her, as she slumped into the seat and placed a crutch to one side. She began talking to passenger beside her in a way that said they knew each other. As the conversation went on, it became obvious that it was mostly one-sided, with just a nod of the head from the string of passengers to whom she spoke. The conversations were in a foreign language, but a few choice expletives, matched with hand gestures and tone, implied that the content was more than idle conversation about the weather. As the bus began to empty, I felt a sense of relief when my stop arrived, because I had managed to avoid an awkward interaction with this gregarious person.

The next day, I was walking to the shops in a densely populated area and as I made my way across a pedestrian crossing, I walked straight past her again. Firstly, it was surprising to bump into her in such a large and unfamiliar city and secondly, because as she crossed the road, I realised her crutch was actually a walking stick for vision impairment. My impression was completely changed as I watched her pass by, cautiously tapping the ground. I felt like I was being given a second chance to take a deeper look at the dignity of this person, created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:27).

Pope Francis invites us to consider how Jesus gazes upon us. How does Jesus look at us? He always looks at us with love, asks us for something, forgives us and gives us a mission. It is enough to place ourselves under the gaze of God, to remember his Fatherly love and let ourselves be gazed upon.



## Journal Questions:

*What is God trying to reveal to you today?*

*Does someone in your life need a second loving look?*

*What does Jesus see as He gazes upon you?*

