

Questions for Reflection and Sharing

What connections or new insights did you gain from the readings?

What words or phrases spoke to you most powerfully in light of the call to form our parish as a beacon of light?

How might the readings influence our planning for the future?

Intercessions

For what or for whom should we pray?

Lord's Prayer

Closing Prayer

Mary, Mother of the Church and our Mother,
Present our prayer of thanksgiving to your Son.
Beg from Him the graces we need to be faithful disciples
who follow Him with enthusiasm and joy.
May our witness to the love of God bear fruit
in our archdiocese, parishes, homes and hearts.
Teach us to be God's joyful witnesses,
to radiate Christ in all we do,
so that all people might know, love and follow your Son
through this life and into the next. Amen.
Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that your Church may always remain that holy people,



January 2022

Opening Prayer

Let us pray.

(Pause for silent prayer)

formed as one by the unity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
which manifest to the world
the Sacrament of your holiness and unity
and leads it to the perfection of your charity.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, forever and ever. Amen.

Reading from Sacred Scripture

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord:
Here is my servant whom I uphold,
 my chosen one with whom I am pleased,
upon whom I have put my spirit;
 he shall bring forth justice to the nations,
not crying out, not shouting,
 not making his voice heard in the street.
a bruised reed he shall not break,
 and a smoldering wick he shall not quench,
until he establishes justice on the earth;
 the coastlands will wait for his teaching.
I, the Lord, have called you for the victory of justice,
 I have grasped you by the hand;
I formed you, and set you
 as a covenant of the people,
 a light for the nations,
to open the eyes of the blind,
 to bring out prisoners from confinement,
 and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness.

(Is 42:1-4, 6-7, The Baptism of the Lord)

The Church, constituted by God, is commissioned to evangelize. Every family, every parish, must have a missionary outlook. We must radiate Christ to the world, and yet, we are experiencing profound change. Our world is becoming more polarized and fragmented, and this is making the task of evangelizing more challenging. Pope Francis frequently says that “we live not so much in an epoch of change as in a change of epoch.” Acknowledging this and the changed reality of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, which includes demographic shifts and fewer priests, is essential for carrying out the mission of the Church in a changed environment.

Beacons of Light is principally about the mission of evangelization. At the beginning of his pontificate, Pope Francis described his dream for the Church, writing “I dream of a ‘missionary option,’ that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church’s customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channeled for the evangelization of today’s world rather than for her self-preservation” (EG, 27).

By Father Earl Fernandes

The Catholic Telegraph is featuring articles written by Fr. Fernandes to provide theological foundations for *Beacons of Light*. These foundational articles will be used in the monthly *Beacons of Light* prayers and throughout the *Beacons* process

The Catholic Telegraph is featuring articles written by Fr. Fernandes to provide theological foundations for *Beacons of Light*. These foundational articles will be used in the monthly *Beacons of Light* prayers and throughout the *Beacons* process.