

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.



Opening Prayer

Let us pray.

(Pause for silent prayer)

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that your Church may always remain that holy people,
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 Gospel according to St. Luke.

While the crowd was pressing in on Jesus and listening to the word of God,
he was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret.
He saw two boats there alongside the lake;
the fishermen had disembarked and were washing their nets.
Getting into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon,
he asked him to put out a short distance from the shore.
Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.
After he had finished speaking, he said to Simon,
“Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch.”
Simon said in reply,
“Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing,
but at your command I will lower the nets.”
When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish
and their nets were tearing.
They signaled to their partners in the other boat
to come to help them.
They came and filled both boats
so that the boats were in danger of sinking.
When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at the knees of Jesus and said,
“Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man.”
For astonishment at the catch of fish they had made seized him
and all those with him,
and likewise James and John, the sons of Zebedee,
who were partners of Simon.
Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid;
from now on you will be catching men.”
When they brought their boats to the shore,
they left everything and followed him.

(Lk 5:1-11, Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time)

From Journeying Together

We are a “pilgrim Church,” journeying toward the heavenly Jerusalem. Significantly, the Second Vatican Council treated the “People of God” in the second chapter of *Lumen Gentium* (LG, 9-17) before treating the hierarchy. If a pyramidal view of the Church had dominated in previous eras, now all the baptized, with their respective and distinctive roles, could better understand their vocations as service to the Church. Open to the Spirit and attentive to the “signs of the times,” the Church acts in a synodal way when exercising her prophetic charism.

Synodality is a way of living the faith, not in an episodic way, but in a permanent way at every level: in the parish, the family and at the peripheries. All Church members, not just the clergy or experts, are to be engaged in this synodal way of living. Synodality describes the journeying together in history of the People of God toward the New and Eternal Jerusalem.

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