

## 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 Second Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

Whoever is in Christ is a new creation:

the old things have passed away;

behold, new things have come.

And all this is from God,

who has reconciled us to himself through Christ

and given us the ministry of reconciliation,

namely, God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ,

not counting their trespasses against them

and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

So we are ambassadors for Christ,

as if God were appealing through us.

We implore you on behalf of Christ,

be reconciled to God.

For our sake he made him to be sin who did not know sin,

so that we might become the righteousness of God in him.

(2 Cor 5:17-21, Second Sunday of Lent)

## From Journeying Together

What are the characteristics of an evangelizing community? It is in this “missionary spirit” that the Church goes forth (cf. *EG*, 20-24). Paragraph 24 of *Evangelii Gaudium* begins with these words: “The Church which ‘goes forth’ is a community of missionary disciples who take the first step, who are involved and supportive, who bear fruit and rejoice” (*EG*, 24).

**First, we are a Church that *goes forth*.** We are missionaries. Going forth demands courageously leaving our comfort zone. In an interview in 2013, Pope Francis said:

“Instead of just being a church that welcomes and receives by keeping the doors open, let us try also to be a church that finds new roads, that is able to step outside itself and go to those who do not attend Mass, to those who have quit or are indifferent. The ones who quit sometimes do it for reasons that, if properly understood and assessed, can lead to a return. But that takes audacity and courage.” (Interview with Antonio Spadaro, Sept. 21, 2013)

By Father Earl Fernandes

In the autumn of 2021, the Catholic Telegraph featured 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.