



A Beacon of Light

Jesus told this parable to the disciples, 'Is a lamp brought in to be put under the bushel basket, or under the bed, and not on the lampstand?' For there is nothing hidden, except to be disclosed, nor is anything secret, except to come to light. Let anyone with ears to hear listen!' (Mark 4.21-23)

Fr. Peter Jae Choi, Pastor of St. Andre Bessette, Maple, Ontario of the Toronto Archdiocese pointed out in his January 30, 2025 Daily TV Mass homily: *Our faith is like a lamp. Once we place it on the lampstand, the light can shine, dispelling the darkness. A baptismal candle is given to us at baptismal ceremony, signifying the light of Christ. The light of Christ is given to us to conquer darkness in our lives and in the world. If we allow God into our hearts and into our lives, we, too, can become a beacon of light for God to shine through.*

It takes faith to do great things. It takes faith to do what seems impossible by our own efforts and strengths alone. But we don't have to do it on our own. We just need to learn to trust, make the leap of faith by abandoning ourselves into the arms of God. We all know that God is right there to catch us but the act of letting go is often the most difficult thing to do. We often catch ourselves wanting to hold onto the bar of self-sufficiency, unwilling to let go. But in order to achieve what God is capable of, what is beyond what we can ever achieve on our own, or apart from Him, we have to learn the art of letting go of our fears and lack of trust, and pretty much everything that prevents us from trusting God completely.

The challenge to us Vincentians is how we can be a beacon of light to many of our brothers and sisters who experience conditions that are depressing, sometimes dehumanizing and denigrating. While we commiserate on and try to modulate their sufferings, how do we convince these are part of a greater purpose, and help them move beyond despair and into hope?

Reflection Questions

1. When have you felt darkness in your life? What are those you find difficult to let go?
2. In what ways you can be His beacon of light to others amid their suffering and weariness?

Let us pray... Lord, may Your loving embrace free us from isolation, cynicism and doubts. May we see You clearly through particular actions and outcomes You lead us to. May You speak through us to inspire others with audacity and deep joy. In Your kindness, grant we always shine Your light around us and keep it bright for others, showing them the way to trust You even in the face of suffering.

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For those interested in contributing spiritual reflections, please email jose.torres@rogers.com. Also, for reflections that may be used in your group meeting's spirituality segment, please check out: [Monthly Reflections - Society of Saint Vincent de Paul - National Council of Canada](#)