

Homily on Christmas Day

Those Who Walk in Darkness Have Seen a Great Light: The Wonder of Christmas. Recall times when you have “walked in darkness”. What was it like? What helped you to keep going? Was there a turning point, when darkness turned to light? Those words from the prophet Isaiah told of the coming Prince of Peace, and of the light and life He would bring. Christians celebrate Christmas because the light did dawn. This is the very essence of Christmas: The birth of the Saviour. When Isaiah told of the coming Prince of Peace, he spoke of light dispelling darkness. The metaphor of light is central to our celebration of Christmas. When Jesus was presented at the temple shortly after His birth, the aged Simeon recognized this child as A Light of revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel. The metaphor of light makes sense only against a background of darkness. In the Bible, darkness is a rich metaphor that points to a double reality. In one sense, darkness points to the simple fact of human ignorance. Those who are “in the dark” are those who lack knowledge. In a second sense, darkness refers to evil and wilful blindness. This points beyond the mere fact of simple ignorance. In this sense, darkness refers to the fact that many will reject the light. This is hard to believe—the Son of God took on human flesh and came to live among sinful humanity, but the vast majority did not recognize Him for who He is.

Christ's birth is the central event of human history—the dividing line between the age of darkness and the age of light. This is reason enough to celebrate Christmas, for our response to this gift of light must be a celebration, thanksgiving, and rejoicing.

Once a man went to see his Doctor and said: Doctor, I get a blinding pain in my eye whenever I drink coffee - what can the problem be?" Doctor said to him, "Take the spoon out when you've finished stirring!"

This is darkness a total ignorance . Once I saw painted on the side of a light bulb store the phrase, “Without darkness, there is no light.” It struck me as ostensibly religious-sounding. I'm not sure if the owners of the store were trying to make a spiritual allusion, but that phrase stuck with me. The Son of God is the light of the world, but He always works through His own to tell others of that Light. As the moon reflects the light of the sun, we should be reflecting the Light of the Son of God. Darkness is filling our land like a cancer eating away on a sick body. Christians are not growing towards the light due to simple spiritual laziness.

A simpleton bought a lottery ticket worth £1. Lady luck must have been shining on him because he won the 10 million jackpot! Graciously, he presented his winning ticket to the lottery office and in his best English uttered his request Me come for me money. After reviewing and checking the ticket with his manager, the clerk returned and requested on how he would like his payments. The man replied, "Me want all my money now." "Unfortunately, Sir" the nervous clerk responded, "The procedures are that we can only give you one million now and the balance equally over the next 20 years". Furious and agitated, the simpleton asked for the manager, who re-iterated "Sir, my assistant is correct, it is the regulation of the corporation that we initially pay you one million now with the balance paid to you equally over the next 20 years". Outraged, he slammed his hand on the desk and shouted in anger, "Gimme my money now or me wants a refund for the ticket!". A perfect example of ignorance-darkness.

Students will learn that light travels in straight lines until reflected or scattered by objects in its path. Students will explore the way an object's size, shape, position, and orientation determines the shadow it creates and how it is affected by a particular light source. They will also find that we “see” the world by collecting light that enters our eyes. This means that if no light enters our eyes from a particular direction we perceive that direction as dark. This is less obvious than it seems. For example, in the classroom, once the lights are turned on there is usually no area that appears dark because the room is filled with reflecting objects — the walls and everything else — so that light is impinging on our eyes from all directions. In the emptiness of space, light (from the Sun) may be present but, with the absence of objects to reflect it to our eyes, we see darkness. If Christ has no place in our lives we are in darkness.