

On the occasion of the Feast of Light

Salamanca, 13 January 2023

You are the light of the world... Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. (Mt 5:14)

These words of Jesus to his disciples and friends are also for us. Jesus tells us that we are LIGHT! Even our family name has this word, Faith and Light. But being called by Jesus to be the light in the midst of the world is a mission and a commitment.

What does it mean to be a LIGHT in the world today?

Our communities are spaces called to create strong human relationships and called to put people with intellectual disabilities at the centre of our hearts. We are called to bond and live as friends of Jesus, celebrating together our faith and every event of life, joyful or painful. We are called to love one another as Jesus did, in a spirit of service and self-giving as he showed us in the washing of the feet. We are called to recognise and love our frailty and mud, to let God caress it and to allow ourselves to be healed by his Love. We are called to live in hope and joy, even in the midst of difficulties. I believe that Jesus calls us to be the light of the world today.

If we take this path, then we will be Light for the world today, in our human relationships, with our friends, acquaintances and family, in our work, study and leisure environments...

That is why I ENCOURAGE you to celebrate this day of light, our feast! And that you do so in a joyful and intense way, according to your Christian traditions, your customs... Without forgetting that Jesus calls us to be Light today and that all the communities form one big family spread all over the world.

I encourage you to celebrate this event in faith, thinking and praying for the rest of the communities, especially those who suffer most. Do it in your parish, being a light to others. It would make no sense for us to celebrate alone, locked away in a room. We are called to be light in the midst of the world, so invite others, make ourselves visible, bear witness!

I embrace each and every one of my brothers and sisters in Faith and Light and congratulate you for BEING Faith and Light!

United in Jesus.

Raúl Izquierdo García
International Coordinator

