

*The  
CIRCLE of LIFE  
JOURNEY*

*Session 5  
Respect for All  
Races, Cultures,  
and Faiths*

Next in our CIRCLE OF LIFE JOURNEY  
let us ponder a question --  
What if the  
SEAMLESS GARMENT OF LIFE . . .



. . . had no colors,  
texture, or brilliance?



Imagine for a moment  
what such a world  
would be like . . .

Colorless . . .

Formless . . .

Darkness.

In the beginning,  
when God created  
the heavens and the earth,

the earth was  
a formless wasteland,  
and darkness  
covered the abyss . . . .

Genesis 1:1-2



Then God said,

“Let there be light” . . .

. . . and there was LIGHT.

God saw how good the LIGHT was.

Genesis 1:3-4

Let us consider  
the **GIFT of LIGHT**  
and all it does in our lives . . .

**Illuminates**

**Reflects**

**Radiates**

*Illumination*

The true **LIGHT**,  
which enlightens everyone,  
was coming  
into the world.

John 1:9

And the Word became flesh  
and dwelt among us,  
and we saw His **GLORY**,

the **GLORY** as of  
the Father's  
only Son,

full of grace and truth.

John 1: 14

At special times  
in the **LIFE OF JESUS**,  
the divine **GLORY** shines  
through brightly –

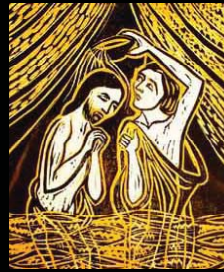


and we  
get a glimpse  
of God's saving  
presence  
breaking  
into  
the world.

We commemorate  
these special times as:

*The Luminous  
Mysteries  
of the Rosary . . .*

*The First  
Luminous Mystery  
of the Rosary*



THE BAPTISM  
OF JESUS

John said . . .

“. . . the reason why  
I came baptizing  
with water

was that  
He might be  
**MADE KNOWN**  
to Israel."

John 1:31

Jesus did this  
as the beginning  
of His signs . . .

and so  
revealed His  
**GLORY**,  
and His disciples  
began to believe  
in Him.

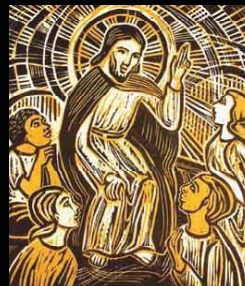
John 2:11

*The Second  
Luminous Mystery  
of the Rosary*



THE WEDDING AT  
CANA

*The Third  
Luminous Mystery  
of the Rosary*



THE PROCLAMATION  
OF THE KINGDOM

Jesus spoke to  
them saying,

"I am the  
**LIGHT**  
of the world.

Whoever follows me  
will not walk  
in darkness,  
but will have  
the **LIGHT**  
of life."

John 8:12

And He was  
transfigured  
before them;

His face shone  
like the sun and  
His clothes  
became  
white as  
**LIGHT**.

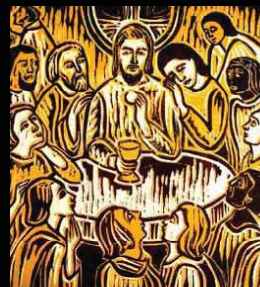
Matthew 17:2

*The Fourth  
Luminous Mystery  
of the Rosary*



THE  
TRANSFIGURATION

*The Fifth  
Luminous Mystery  
of the Rosary*



THE FIRST  
EUCHARIST

Father . . .

I have given them  
the **GLORY**  
You gave Me,  
so that  
they may  
be one,  
as We are one,  
I in them  
and You in Me.

John 17:22-23

What came to be  
through Him was LIFE,  
and this life was



The  
**LIGHT**  
of the  
human race.

John 1:3-4

# Reflection



Science tells us  
that what we see as White Light  
is made up of a combination of  
colored light wave lengths . . .



. . . all the colors in the rainbow

From WHITE LIGHT comes  
**COLOR**



If something ABSORBS all the colors,  
it appears black,

if it REFLECTS all the colors,  
it appears white.

The reason something appears  
to have a unique **COLOR**  
is that the object is absorbing  
all the other colors of light . . .

. . . except the **COLOR** we see,

which is  
**REFLECTED**  
back to our eyes.

Christ, the LIGHT of the WORLD,  
ILLUMINATES the whole  
HUMAN RACE

And each person REFLECTS back  
the LIGHT OF CHRIST  
in a special and  
uniquely colorful way.





*Respect for  
ALL RACES,  
CULTURES,  
& FAITHS*



The human person  
is the clearest **REFLECTION**  
of God's presence in the world . . .

*The Challenge of Peace*  
U.S. Bishops



For each person  
not only  
**REFLECTS** God . . .

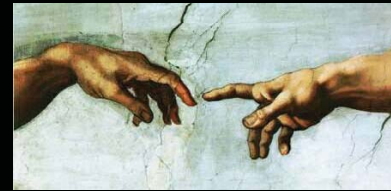
. . . but is the expression  
of God's creative work

and the meaning  
of Christ's redemptive ministry.

*The Challenge of Peace*  
U.S. Bishops

God created man in His own image;  
male and female He created them . . .

And God saw everything  
that He had made,  
and it was very good.



Genesis 1:27; 31

God intended  
that all creation live  
in the harmony and love  
that unites it as one . . .



But human beings have replaced



the divinely planned harmony  
with division,  
the divinely willed unity  
with conflict,  
the divinely intended community  
with fragmentation.

One form of human division,  
conflict & fragmentation is **RACISM**:

- spatial
- institutional
- internalized
- individual —



Racism mars our identity  
as a people,  
as the human race  
made in the image  
and likeness of God.

*What the Church teaches . . .*

Every form of discrimination  
against individuals and groups —

whether because of  
race, ethnicity, religion, gender,  
economic status, or national  
or cultural origin—

is a serious injustice.



*Brothers and Sister to Us  
U.S. Bishops*

For all of you  
who were baptized into Christ  
have clothed yourselves  
with Christ.

There is neither Jew nor Greek,  
there is neither slave nor free person,  
there is not male and female;

**for you are all one  
in Christ Jesus.**

Galatians 3:27-28

For us to perfectly image  
the LIGHT of CHRIST

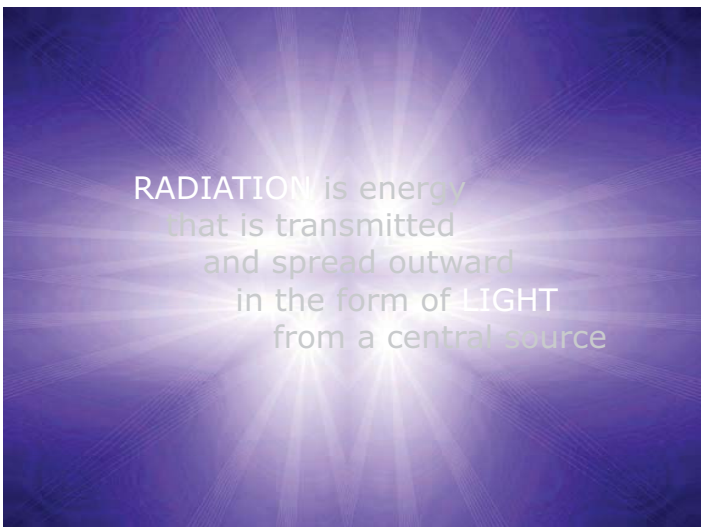
All the colors of humanity  
must REFLECT as ONE.



*Radiation*



RADIATION is energy  
that is transmitted  
and spread outward  
in the form of LIGHT  
from a central source



How are  
WE called  
to **RADIATE**  
**GOD'S LOVE**  
to all Races,  
Cultures  
and Faiths?



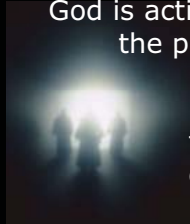
Let us begin  
by **listening to,**  
and  
**learning from,**  
each other . . .



. . . and by seeking to see  
the **LIGHT of God**  
in every face we meet.

We meet God in and through  
people of every color,  
ethnic background,  
religion,  
class & gender.

God is active in and through  
the people,  
places and  
circumstances  
that constitute  
our ordinary daily life.



“The beginning of love  
is to let those we love  
be perfectly themselves,  
and not to twist them  
to fit our own image.

Otherwise we love  
only the reflection of ourselves  
we find in them.”

– Thomas Merton



I wish I could show you,  
when you are lonely  
or in darkness,

the astonishing **LIGHT**  
of your own Being.

– Hafiz  
حافظ



Worldwide, the Church today  
is not just European and American . . .

it is western, eastern,  
northern, and southern,  
black and also brown,  
white and also  
red and yellow.



*Brothers and Sisters to Us*  
U.S. Bishops

All the races and tribes  
in the world  
are like the  
different colored  
flowers in  
one meadow.

All are beautiful.

As children of the  
Creator —  
they must  
all be respected.



– Native American Indian  
Traditional Code  
of Ethics

It is the duty  
of every cultured man or woman  
to read sympathetically  
the scriptures of the world.

If we are to respect  
others' religions  
as we would have them  
respect our own,  
a friendly study of the  
world's religions  
is a sacred duty.



– Gandhi

You cannot shake hands  
with a clenched fist.

– Golda Meir



Darkness cannot drive out darkness;  
only LIGHT can do that.

Hate cannot drive out hate;  
only LOVE can do that.

– Martin Luther King, Jr.



You are the LIGHT of the world. . . .  
Your LIGHT must shine  
before others,  
that they may see  
your good deeds  
and glorify  
your heavenly Father.

Matthew 5: 14, 17



### *Our Prayer*

Christ, Our LIGHT,  
Help us to see  
Your LIGHT reflected in  
every human face,  
in our everyday lives and  
throughout our world.

May we become instruments  
of your peace and reconciliation  
working to bring together  
all Races, Cultures  
and Faiths.

The LIGHT shines  
in the darkness,  
and the darkness  
has not overcome it.

John 1:5





*Amen*

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Luminous Mysteries  
images from:  
[http://campus.udayton.edu/marv/  
/meditations/luminous.html](http://campus.udayton.edu/marv/meditations/luminous.html)

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