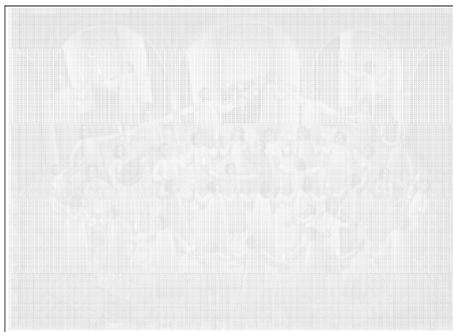


*The
CIRCLE of LIFE
JOURNEY
Session 5
Respect for All
Races, Cultures,
and Faiths*

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,



... and there was LIGHT.
God saw how good the LIGHT was.

Genesis 1:3-4

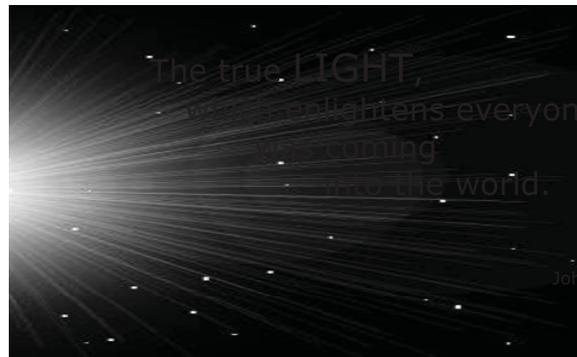
Let us consider
the GIFT of LIGHT
and all it does in our lives . . .

Illuminates

Reflects

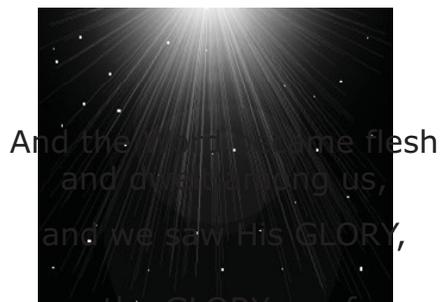
Radiates

Illumination



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

John 1:9



And the light came 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.

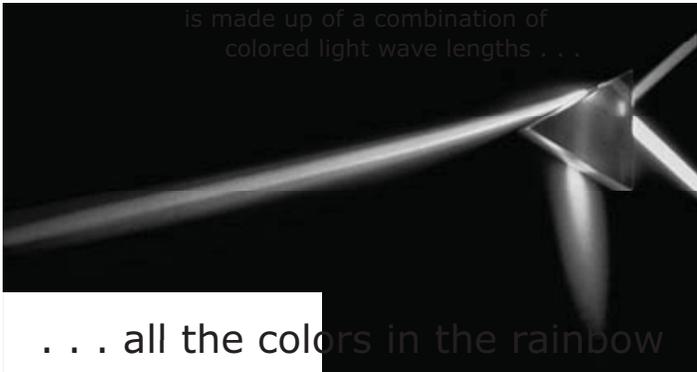
John 1:3-4

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 done so in one Spirit

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 **GLORY** 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.



We meet God in and through
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,

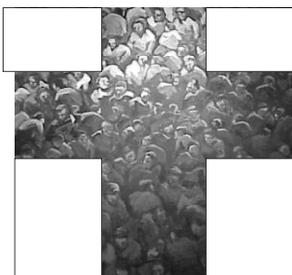
the astonishing LIGHT
of your own Being.

– 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
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[http://campus.udayton.edu/mary/
/meditations/luminous.html](http://campus.udayton.edu/mary/meditations/luminous.html)

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Christian Life Commission