

BRINGING HOME THE GOSPEL

February 9, 2020 • 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Matthew 5:13-16

Shine Your Little Light

Jesus gives his disciples a powerful metaphor on how they are to live their lives. They are to be a light to the world—ablaze with the Good News of the Gospel message. Wherever they go, they are to share their light.

We know from the Gospels that Jesus Christ is the light of the world. His goodness and love have the power to obliterate the darkness of fear, poverty and oppression. Matthew's Gospel reminds us that we share Christ's light. It is our gift as children of God, but it is not a gift meant to be stowed away or kept to ourselves.

With the light of Christ we are empowered to break through the darkness and share God's love and goodness with all those in need. We refuse to tolerate racist talk and we shine a light through prejudice. We gather food and send it to a food pantry, and we bring a light into the darkness of hunger and poverty. We bake some cookies, practice some songs, and bring our light to a nursing home—casting out, for at least a little while, the darkness of loneliness.

The light of Christ can be shared in all sorts of simple ways: a kind letter, a phone call, a smile, or a hug. Parents share their light with their children with every story they read and every tussle of their child's hair. And I know, firsthand, children share their light with us.

Yesterday was a bad day for me. Everything was going wrong. There were family problems and work worries, another book deadline, and some big-

time back pain. Then my son and daughter-in-law stopped by with my newest grandchild.

As I sat and rocked baby Julia and felt the wonderful weight of her four-month-old body across my chest, my body relaxed with a deep sense of peace. And when Julia brought her head back and looked at me, her beautiful smile lit up my day. Without even knowing it, Peter and Katie shared the light of their lives with me, by bringing Julia's gentle Christ-light into my darkness.

FAMILY RESPONSE

Talk about how Jesus wants you to be a light in the dark when people are in need or want. Ask family members to share a time when someone has been a light to them.

PERSONAL RESPONSE

Consider the people in your life. Who could use a little of Christ's light in their lives? How can you be that light? What do you want to remember from last week? What are you looking forward to next week? What are your concerns?