

We are sons and daughters of Easter

Stay with us, for it is nearly evening... Lk 24, 29

Yes, we are sons and daughters of Easter, because our faith was born of the Passion of Jesus on the Cross and the experience of the Resurrection, which changed the lives of the first disciples, just as it has changed ours. Our communities are Easter communities, born out of the experience of pain that does not remain in itself, but precedes Life. The darkness and suffering, real and palpable, that herald the coming of the eternal Light.



How often do we say in Faith and Light that we are communities where suffering is present but that we celebrate with great joy and intensity? Of course we celebrate, not because we are naïve or because we like to suffer, but because Christ is risen and has conquered death. Isn't that a reason to celebrate and sing until we lose our voices?

We are communities of **Faith** and of **Light**.

Faith, because we believe in Jesus, we believe in God who is father and mother, we believe in the Holy Spirit who gives us strength, courage and joy. And even if our faith is sometimes poor and weak, we want to move forward!

And **Light**, because we are illuminated by the light of Jesus' resurrection, the light of God's unconditional love for human beings. A light that has been given to us so that our communities can show it to the world, without fear or complexes. Light is meant to be shown and to illuminate, not to be hidden in a closet or under the bed.

I would like to share this prayer with you, my brothers and sisters of Faith and Light:

Jesus,

Stay with us, for evening is drawing near.

Stay close, very close, because darkness is already looming.

Don't go far away, we need you, sometimes fear invades our heart and everything becomes a heavy burden.

Stay close to the mothers and fathers of our friends with disabilities, comfort them with your embrace.

Stay close to our young friends. Touch their hearts so that they follow you with courage and joy.

Stay close to our friends with intellectual disabilities.

Follow the deepest desires of their hearts and bless their smiles.

Stay in our communities, continue to walk beside us as you did with the disciples on the road to Emmaus. And when we can't see you, blinded by our problems, our burdens and our worries, help us to discover you in small gestures and in the warmth of the Bread and the Word.

Stay with us, for evening is drawing near.

Happy Easter !

Raúl Izquierdo García
International coordinator of Faith and Light
Easter 2024