



# A Light to enlighten the nations

(Lk 2, 22-40)

**On the occasion of the Feast of Light that communities celebrate around Candlemas, we remember the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple by Joseph and Mary, in compliance with the Jewish law of the time.**



Dear Faith and Light communities:

Congratulations on celebrating this feast another year, our Feast of Light!

To celebrate the Light is to renew the commitment that we are Light to enlighten and to illuminate. The flame of a candle, however small, is there to give a little light when there is some darkness around. That is its purpose, even if lighting it means being spent and consumed. The candle could be hidden in a cupboard and last for many years, because no one would light it, but then it would have lost the purpose for which it was created and become an ornamental or useless object, which in the end gets in the way and has to be thrown away.

Each of our Faith and Light communities has received the breath of the Holy Spirit to be a light in the midst of the world, in the midst of the reality in which it exists and in a particular country, culture, Christian tradition and human beings. Each community has its roots in a history made up of events with dates and faces, with names and surnames. And it can also happen to a Faith and Light community like that candle to prefer not to light for fear of burning out, or for fear of something else. A Faith and Light community cannot be satisfied with meeting once in a while and creating nice and warm gatherings for its members, because its purpose does not end with itself.

A Faith and Light community is called to be a light for other men and women, for the churches and for society. A light that is small and fragile, yes, but that many people may need in order to continue to live a meaningful life. We are not a light for others because we are very good, but because Jesus is at the centre of our communities, and therefore at the centre of the life of each person who is part of Faith and Light. Our communities are gathered around people with intellectual disabilities, who so often remind us of the values of simplicity and depth, of genuine joy and welcome, among others, and who prepare the ground for God's work. In the Gospels we discover these values in the life of Jesus and we realise that all of them are light for any human being who wants to live them.

Let us not forget that if our communities (and each person) are called to be Light, it is because there is darkness. There are many people who suffer for many reasons, who are alone, who cannot find a place to live and celebrate their faith. Faith and Light is a light, small and poor, but so beautiful and so necessary!

May God grant us the gift of being a light wherever we are in each community, with humility, courage and determination. Communities that give joyful and authentic witness, without fear of leaving their comfort zone, without fear of spending their energy, without fear of being a light.

May you celebrate with joy and meaning this Feast of Light.  
An embrace to each Faith and Light community,

United in Jesus.

Salamanca, 27 January 2024

Raúl Izquierdo García  
International Coordinator of Faith and Light

