



Diocesan Art Contest

Beginning December 13th, 2011

With submissions due
February 6th, 2012

Who can submit? Any Middle School or High School student who attends a Diocese of Orlando parish or Catholic School.

What is the Theme? The theme is "Living in the Light." artwork must represent the artists view of what living in the Light means to them.

What kind of art can be submitted? Submissions can be drawing/sketch, painting, design created with an art software/program, or photography, and must be either 9" x 12", or 12" x 18".

Why submit art? The winning artwork will be displayed at the National Conference for Catholic Youth Ministry being held in Orlando Nov. 29-Dec. 1, 2012, and prizes will be given for the top three submissions in two age categories: Middle School and High School.

When must art be submitted? The art contest kicks off on St. Lucy Day, Dec. 13th, 2011 and art can be submitted through February 6th, 2012.

When will art be judged? Art will be judged in March, and winners will be contacted in April 2012.

For more information, contact Maggie McGowan at Mmcgowan@churchoftheres.net

Diocese of Orlando Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry

Youth Art Contest

The Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry of the Diocese of Orlando is hosting a Youth Art Contest.

The contest is open to Middle School & High School students. Winners and finalists of the Youth Art Contest will have their artwork displayed at the National Conference of Catholic Youth Ministry to be held in Orlando, November 2012. The National Conference for Catholic Youth Ministry is the largest adult conference for Catholic youth ministers in the country. It is sponsored biennially by the National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministry in order to form and transform adults ministering to the young Catholic Church. Thousands of youth and campus ministers, religious education leaders, performers and artists & volunteers from every level come together for four days of inspiring keynotes, challenging workshops, dynamic prayer & worship, helpful networking, extensive resources, & good hearted entertainment.

Contest entrants should submit an original artwork, sculpture or video that displays the contestant's vision of the conference theme "Living in the Light." Daily conference scripture themes and an example lesson plan are available. All artwork, video or sculpture must adhere to the contest rules and artwork guidelines.

Contest Rules

1. Artwork submission must be an original creation and the work of the contestant.
2. Contestants must fill out an entry form to enter the contest.
3. Contestants must be a student in a Catholic School OR belong to a Catholic parish within the Diocese of Orlando and be in Middle School or High School.
4. Contestants must submit entries to the appropriate age group
 - a. Group 1: Middle School
 - b. Group 2: High School
5. Only one entry per contestant will be accepted. If more than one entry is submitted, only one entry will be judged.
6. Artwork must display the contestant's vision of what it means to be "Living in the Light" or how they are "Living in the Light". Contestants should attach a brief description of the art submission.
7. Contestants must send a hard copy of the original artwork, video or sculpture.
8. Contestants will retain copyrights to their artwork or video, but the Diocese of Orlando reserves the right to display, publish, and make work available to the public.

9. Artwork/video submitted to the contest will not be returned.
10. The Diocese of Orlando reserves the right to reject any entry.
11. There is NO ENTRY FEE.

Artwork Guidelines

1. Contestants should write their name on the back of their artwork or attach to video or sculpture.
2. Artwork/video/sculpture should show the contestant's vision of what "Living in the Light" means or how they are 'living in the light'. The audience at the conference is those who serve the young church – it may be helpful to keep that audience in mind.
3. Utilizing 'light' within the medium of the artwork, or within the video in addition to thematically is desirable as possible.
4. Eligible entries must be one of the following: drawing/sketch, painting, design created with an art software/program, or photography; sculpture; or video.
5. Art Entries must be 9" x 12" or 11"x17".
6. Video entries must not exceed 5 minutes running time.

Judging and Prizes

1. A total of 6 winners will be selected. A first, second & third place will be selected from each of the two age groups.
2. The NFCYM local planning committee will act as the judges for the contest. The committee will meet in March 2012 to review submissions and select winners from each age group.
3. Judges will select the best pieces of artwork based on the following criteria:
 - a. Creativity
 - b. Originality
 - c. Artistic quality
 - d. Depiction of the theme

Schedule and Deadlines

1. Submission deadline: February 6, 2012. Entries must be postmarked or dropped off by 5pm.
2. April 2012: Winners will be contacted. First place winners will be announced in E-Scroll.

3. First, second and third place winners in the both the middle school and high school categories are invited to participate in the Light of Faith awards ceremony to be held April 23, 2012. There will be a Mass of Thanksgiving for the Gifts of Communication from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the St. James Cathedral in downtown Orlando. The Light of Faith Awards will be distributed after the Mass and a reception will follow.

Artwork will be displayed November 29-December 1, 2012 at the National Conference for Catholic Youth Ministry at the Swan & Dolphin Hotel at Disney Resort.

Submission Guidelines:

Send or drop off submissions (with completed entry form) to:

Mail:

Diocese of Orlando

Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry

PO Box 1800

Orlando, FL 32802-1800

Drop off:

Diocese of Orlando

Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry

50 East Robinson

Orlando, FL 32801

For more information, contact Maggie McGowan at:

mmcgowan@churchoftheres.net

or 863-860-7585

Diocese of Orlando Youth Art Contest Entry Form

To enter, please submit artwork with completed entry form to:

**Diocese of Orlando
Office of Youth and Young Adult
PO Box 1800
Orlando, FL 32802-1800**

Please print clearly.

Check Age Group: () Group 1: Middle School () Group 2: High School

Contestant Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Email: _____

School: _____

Brief description of artwork (if you need more space please attach an additional sheet of paper):

By signing below, the contestant agrees to allow the Diocese of Orlando to reproduce the submitted artwork at its discretion. Artwork will be published, displayed, and made available to the public.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian (if under 18 years old): _____

Date: _____

Printed Name of Parent or Guardian: _____

NCCYM 2012 “Living in the Light”

Overall Conference Theme - “Living in the Light”

- Ephesians 5:8-9 “For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of the light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth.”

Thursday Evening Session – “Bathed in the light”

Scripture: Psalm 36:8-10

“How precious is your love, O God! WE talk refuge in the shadow of your wings. We feast on the rich food of your house; from your delightful stream you give us drink. For with you is the fountain of life, and in your light, we see light”

Friday Morning – “Being in the Light”

Scripture: John 1:1-5

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”

Friday Afternoon – “Seeing in the Light”

Scripture: Matthew 4:19-20

“He said to them, “Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.” At once they left their nets and followed him.”

Saturday Morning – “Bearing the Light”

Scripture: Matthew 5:13-16

"You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.”

Saturday Evening – “Rejoicing in the Light”

Scripture: Psalm 104: 1-4, 33-34

“Bless the Lord, my soul! Lord, my God, you are great indeed! You are clothed with majesty and glory, robed in light as with a cloak. You spread out the heavens like a tent; you raised your palace upon the waters. You make the clouds your chariot; you travel on the wings of the wind. You make the winds your messengers; flaming fire, your ministers. “ ... “I will sing to the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God while I live. May my theme be pleasing to God; I will rejoice in the Lord.”

Middle School or High School Sample Lesson Plan for
St. Lucy Living in the Light Art Contest

This lesson plan should be modified as appropriate for the school or parish setting.

Purpose: The purpose of this session is to introduce the youth to St. Lucy and her life, and tying that to an art contest hosted by the Diocese of Orlando which kicks off around St. Lucy's feast day, Dec. 13th.

Session Outline:

Welcome and attendance (5 min.)

Icebreaker: Eye Wars (10 min.)

Living in the Light (5 – 10min)

Options to connect and go deeper

1. Story of St. Lucy & St Lucy Quiz (10 min.)

2. Leaving a Legacy (10 min.)

a. Choose ONE of several songs that have a connection to St Lucy and/or scripture.

i. Through Heaven's Eyes

ii. I want to Leave a Legacy

iii. Give me Your Eyes

iv. Point of Light

Art Contest Directions (5 min.)

Design Time (20-40 min.)

Closing Prayer (5 min.)

Materials needed:

- **Nametags and markers**
- **Candy for prizes**
- **Art/video materials as desired:**
 - paper (printer paper or art paper)
 - clay or sculpting medium

- **video camera**
- pencils**
- crayons, markers, pastels, paints, watercolors, paintbrushes**
- table coverings**
- paper towels**

Welcome and Attendance (5 min.)

Greet each teen as they enter. Have each teen make a nametag. Take attendance as normal. Invite the teens to sit in the chairs set up assembly style in the front of the room.

Ice breaker: Eye Wars (10 min.)

Teens will pair up, and then play a game similar to Rock, Paper, Scissors. Explain as follows:

In a moment, we are going to ask you to find a partner, and stand back to back. Then we'll play a game called Eye Wars. The rules are similar to Rock, Paper, Scissors, but we're going to use our eyes instead. On the count of three, you will turn and face your partner, with your right eye closed, or your left eye closed, or both eyes open.

Here's how you score (post this in the front of the room):

- Right eye closed beats left eye closed
- Left eye closed beats both eyes open
- Both eyes open beats right eye closed

We will play best two out of three, then we'll have Round 2!

Ask the winners of Round 1 to stay standing, and the others to sit down. Pair up again, and have the teens cheer as the teens continue playing.

Move on until there is a final pair (maneuver as needed with adult volunteers to fill in if you have uneven numbers). Build up some excitement to get the teens cheering for the two finalists. Give a prize to the winner.

Living in the Light (5-10 min)

This is an opportunity to invite our young people to consider what it means to be called to live as saints in their daily lives.

Do you hope to go to heaven? If you do then you are hoping to be a saint. While not everyone in heaven is a formally recognized and canonized Saint, all of those in heaven are 'saints'. God calls each one of us to be living saints on earth, which means that He calls us to do His will in the ordinary events of our daily lives.

This means using the gifts that we have been given to serve God, and those God loves, our brothers and sisters here on earth.

Most of us probably will not be officially recognized by the Church as Saints through canonization, but we must all strive to live out the Beatitudes; and showing the fruits and gifts of the Holy Spirit in our day-to-day lives.

You may wish to choose just one of the following to explore with your young people; the Beatitudes, the Fruits of the Holy Spirit or the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Beatitudes Mt 5:1-12 *(with high school teens: consider contrasting with Beatitudes in Luke 6:20-26; discuss differences, including the even stronger focus on serving the physically poor)*

1. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven
2. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.
3. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.
4. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.
5. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy
6. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God
7. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
8. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

The Fruits of the Spirit:

(Galatians 5:22-23)

1. Love
2. Joy
3. Peace
4. Patience
5. Kindness
6. Generosity
7. Faithfulness
8. Gentleness
9. Self-Control

The Gifts of the Spirit: *(Isaiah 11:2)*

1. Wisdom
2. Understanding
3. Counsel (Right judgment)
4. Fortitude (Courage)
5. Knowledge
6. Piety (Reverence)
7. Fear of the Lord (Wonder & Awe)

After discussing one of the focus areas above, consider Pope Benedict XVI's recent comments (September 2011) on living as saints. Close with his challenge to each of us to "Dare to Live as Glowing Saints"

Below are brief excerpts from a recent talk by Pope Benedict XVI. A fuller series of excerpts follows this sample lesson plan.

Note for High School – printing the fuller list of excerpts which follows lesson plan – or editing to a single page of excerpts – would allow teens to review these excerpts and discuss what stands out to them.

"To be sure, those who believe in Jesus do not lead lives of perpetual sunshine, as though they could be spared suffering and hardship, but there is always a bright glimmer there, lighting up the path that leads to fullness of life. The eyes of those who believe in Christ see light even amid the darkest night and they already see the dawning of a new day."

"Dear friends, again and again the very notion of saints has been caricatured and distorted, as if to be holy meant to be remote from the world, naive and joyless. Often it is thought that a saint has to be someone with great ascetic and moral achievements, who might well be revered, but could never be imitated in our own lives. How false and discouraging this opinion is! There is no saint, apart from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who has not also known sin, who has never fallen. Dear friends, Christ is not so much interested in how often in your lives you stumble and fall, as in how often you pick yourselves up again. He does not demand glittering achievements, but He wants His light to shine in you. He does not call you because you are good and perfect, but because He is good and He wants to make you His friends. Yes, you are the light of the world because Jesus is your light. ... Dare to be glowing saints, in whose eyes and hearts the love of Christ beams and who thus bring light to the world." -- Pope Benedict XVI, Sept 2011

Option 1 - The Story of St. Lucy (5 minutes)

This option makes a connection to the December 13 feast day of St Lucy which will occur at the time the art contest begins.

Ask the young people what they know about St. Lucy. After a few comments, tell St Lucy's story:

Note for Middle School: It may be most effective to focus on Lucy dedicating her life to God and her connection to 'light' and the 'eyes'. Middle School may find 'consecrated virginity' a bit difficult to integrate. Consider editing the language a bit in telling the story to that age group.

Tradition tells us that Saint Lucy was born of noble, wealthy, Christian parents in Syracuse, Italy. Because her name means "light", she very early became the great patron saint for the "light of the body" – the eyes. Often asked to intercede against diseases of the eyes, especially the danger of blindness. The lighters of street lamps in past centuries had her as patron saint and made a special ceremony of their task on the eve of December 13, her feast day.

Lucy had few memories of her father, because he died when Lucy was an infant. As a young girl, Lucy took a secret vow to consecrate her virginity to Christ. Thus her mother was quite dismayed when Lucy, as a teen, refused marriage to a young pagan.

When Lucy's mother developed a hemorrhage, Lucy persuaded her to visit the tomb of St. Agatha to pray for healing. When her mother was healed, Lucy revealed her vow of virginity and asked permission to bestow her fortune on the poor. Joyful at her cure, Lucy's mother agreed, but Lucy's pagan suitor was very angry. With the persecution of the emperor Diocletian at its height, the jilted young man accused Lucy, before a judge, of being a Christian. When Lucy refused to relinquish her faith, the judge ordered her to a life of prostitution. However, guards who attempted to drag her to the house of sin were unable to

budge her. Similarly an attempt to burn Lucy to death failed so she was killed by thrusting a sword into her throat. The date of Lucy's martyrdom was December 13, 304.

Saint Lucy is associated with light. According to the Julian calendar, December 13th was the shortest day of the year. The change to the Gregorian calendar altered the date to December 21st, but did not change Lucy's feast day celebration, and she is forever associated with lengthening days and more sunlight.

As early as the sixth century, Lucy was honored in Rome as one of the most praiseworthy virgin martyrs, and her name was inserted into the canon of the Mass. Possibly because of her name, which means "light," Lucy was invoked by those who suffered from eye trouble or blindness.

Many people celebrate St. Lucy's day with some special traditions. In Sweden, the oldest (or youngest) daughter in each household traditionally carries a tray of coffee and traditional pastries called lussekatter (Lucy cats) to her parents before they arise in the morning. She wears a white gown, scarlet sash, and a crown of greens and four, seven, or nine lighted candles. Her brothers, wearing white shirts and tall, cone-shaped hats decorated with stars, and her sisters, all in white and carrying lighted candles, follow her. In many towns, a Saint Lucy is chosen to carry coffee and buns to each house. She and her followers, each bearing a lighted candle, sing carols as they traverse the dark streets while St. Steven, represented by a man on horseback, leads the way. The procession is done in memory of Saint Lucy's traversing darkened woods to bring bread and other food to the poor.

Quick St. Lucy Quiz (5 min.)

Here's a quick check to see what they heard. Toss out candy to the first correct answer for each question.

- In what country was St. Lucy born? (Italy)
- How old was she when her father died? (a baby)
- What part of the body is St Lucy a patron saint for? (the eyes)
- Whose tomb did she visit with her sick mother? (St. Agatha)
- What did St. Lucy want to do with all her money? (take care of the poor)
- Who turned her in as a Christian? (the man who wanted to marry her)
- What was her punishment to be? (a life of prostitution)
- When that didn't work, how did they try to kill her? (burn her)
- How did she finally die? (a sword to the throat)
- When is St. Lucy's feast day? (Dec. 13)
- What does the name Lucy mean? (light)

Option 2 – Leaving a Legacy of faith

This option focuses on choosing to live in a way that points back to our God. There are options here to use several different songs as a starting point to reflection and discussion. Each connects to Benedict XVI's comments on saints noted earlier.

It is tempting to be focused on ourselves and how we can use our gifts and talents to get popularity, praise and maybe even money and fame. To choose to be a 'living saint' means that we give up the focus on self and the rewards of 'fame and money' that come on the surface – for the deeper treasure of being a reflection of Christ's light. It means that we bring our gifts together with the gifts of the entire body of Christ, and live out our lives in a way that is unique to us – but united through the Holy Spirit in bringing Glory to God.

“There are two ways of being light: to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it.

— Edith Wharton”

“As the rays of the sun are so rich that we cannot see their many splendors unless they are shot through a prism, which causes them to break into the seven rays of the spectrum, so too, the life of Christ, which saints reflect, is so infinitely good that it takes an **infinite variety of saints** shot through the prism of love and penance to reflect the holiness of the Son of God”

– Bishop Fulton Sheen

Choose one of the following songs to play for young people to reflect on – begin by reading the scripture(s) suggested to frame what they hear. Following the song/clip discuss what they heard in the lyrics that connects with the call to be living saints.

Page breaks are preventing splitting songs between pages.

Through Heavens Eyes (from Prince of Egypt)

St Lucy as Patron saint of the 'eye' and to Matthew 6:19-21

NOTE: This song is also a 'scene' on "Prince of Egypt" DVD and works well to engage youth.

References to 'color' and the 'eyes of heaven' are woven throughout. Tapestry imagery makes clear the need for the full Body of Christ – rather than focus on an individual and their singular gifts.

A single thread in a tapestry
Through its color brightly shine
Can never see its purpose
In the pattern of the grand design

And the stone that sits on the very
top
Of the mountain's mighty face
Does it think it's more important
Than the stones that form the base?

So how can you see what your life is
worth
Or where your value lies?
You can never see through the eyes
of man
You must look at your life

Look at your life through heaven's
eyes
Lai-la-lai...

A lake of gold in the desert sand
Is less than a cool fresh spring
And to one lost sheep, a shepherd
boy
Is greater than the richest king
If a man lose ev'rything he owns
Has he truly lost his worth?
Or is it the beginning
Of a new and brighter birth?

So how do you measure the worth of
a man

In wealth or strength or size?
In how much he gained or how much
he gave?

The answer will come
The answer will come to him who
tries
To look at his life through heaven's
eyes

And that's why we share all we have
with you
Though there's little to be found
When all you've got is nothing
There's a lot to go around

No life can escape being blown
about
By the winds of change and chance
And though you never know all the
steps
You must learn to join the dance
You must learn to join the dance
Lai-la-lai...

So how do you judge what a man is
worth
By what he builds or buys?
You can never see with your eyes on
earth
Look through heaven's eyes
Look at your life
Look at your life
Look at your life through heaven's
eyes

Legacy by Nichole Nordeman

Tie to Matthew 5:14-16 (light of the world) and Matthew 6:19-21 (treasures in heaven)
enough

I don't mind if you've got something nice
to say about me
And I enjoy an accolade like the rest
You could take my picture and hang it in
a gallery
Of all who's who and so-n-so's that used
to be the best
At such'n'such ... it wouldn't matter
much

I won't lie, it feels alright to see your
name in lights
We all need an 'Atta boy' or 'Atta girl'
But in the end I'd like to hang my hat on
more besides
The temporary trappings of this world

I want to leave a legacy
How will they remember me?
Did I choose to love? Did I point to You

To make a mark on things?
I want to leave an offering
A child of mercy and grace who
blessed your name unapologetically
And leave that kind of legacy

I don't have to look too far or too long
awhile
To make a lengthy list of all that I enjoy
It's an accumulating trinket and a
treasure pile
Where moth and rust, thieves and such
will soon enough destroy

Not well traveled, not well read, not well-
to-do or well bred
Just want to hear instead, "Well Done"
good and faithful one...

Give Me Your Eyes by Brandon Heath (tie to story of St Lucy & Beatitudes)

Looked down from a broken sky
Traced out by the city lights
My world from a mile high
Best seat in the house tonight
Touched down on the cold black top
Hold on for the sudden stop
Breath in the familiar shock
Of confusion and chaos
All those people going somewhere,
Why have I never cared?

Chorus:

Give me your eyes for just one second
Give me your eyes so I can see
Everything that I keep missing
Give me your love for humanity
Give me your arms for the broken
hearted
Ones that are far beyond my reach.
Give me your heart for the ones
forgotten
Give me your eyes so I can see

Yeah
Yeah
Step out on a busy street
See a girl and our eyes meet
Does her best to smile at me
To hide what's underneath
There's a man just to her right
Black suit and a bright red tie
Too ashamed to tell his wife
He's out of work
He's buying time
All those people going somewhere
Why have I never cared?
Chorus
I've Been there a million times
A couple of million eyes
Just moving past me by
I swear I never thought that I was wrong
Well I want a second glance
So give me a second chance
To see the way you see the people all
along

Point of Light by Randy Travis (tie to Matthew 5:14-16 (light of the world))

There is a point when you cannot
walk away
When you have to stand up straight
and tall and mean the word you say
There is a point you must decide,
just to do it 'cause it's right
That's when you become a point of
light

There is a darkness that everyone
must face
It want to take what's good and fair
lay it all to waste
And that darkness covers everything
in sight
Until it meets a single point of light

All it takes is a point of light
A ray of hope in the darkest night

If you see what's wrong and you try
to make it right
You will be a point of light

There are heroes, whose names we
never hear
A dedicated army of quiet volunteers
Reaching out to feed the hungry,
reaching out to save the land
Reaching out to help their fellow man

There are dreamers, who are making
dreams come true
Taking time to teach the children,
there's nothing they can't do
Giving shelter to the homeless,
giving hope to those without
Isn't that what this land's all about?

Art Contest Directions (5 min.)

Give these directions:

In several months, the Orlando Diocese will be hosting a big conference for Youth Ministers. The theme of the conference is "Living in the Light."

- What do you think it means to be "Living in the Light"? (allow time for some responses)
- How does this connect to our call to be 'living saints' – reflecting the light of Christ in your actions at home, school, parish and our community?

We have been invited to create some art for this conference. This art will be displayed in the conference center, and will be paired with prayers to be given out to each participant at the conference on a prayer card.

We're going to take some time now to create some art to submit. I want each one of you to reflect on what YOU think it means to be "Living in the Light," and then we'll take the art materials provided, and we want you to work on your piece.

Please follow these rules:

- On the back of your paper, print your name in pencil and write (Middle) (High) School
- You may draw/sketch/paint/sculpt your design or create a video.

- If you would like to do this project at home as well, you may also submit original designs made on the computer, or a photograph. You would need to get those back to me right after Christmas.

We will work on these projects for (?) minutes, and at the end of then night we will place them _____.

Design Time (as much time as you can allow)

Closing Prayer (5 min.)

You may begin with an appropriate song:

- 'We are the Light of the World' found in Spirit and Song
- 'This Little Light of Mine' (spiritual) found in Spirit and Song
- 'Christ be our Light' (by Bernadette Farrell, © 1991, Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP)
- 'In the Light' by Charlie Peacock found in Spirit and Song

Prayer Leader: **In the name of the Father...**

God of all creation, we thank you for your holy men and women that have gone before us to give witness to You. We thank you for St. Lucy, virgin and martyr, who dedicated her whole life to you and to serving the poor. Help us to be courageous in living our faith day to day. We ask all this through Christ our Lord, amen.

Reading: Matthew 5: 14-16

You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

(pause for a few moments of silence)

Prayer Leader: **St. Lucy was a beautiful example of a young person who knew what Christ desired from her and who was willing to live for Him. Let us pray for her intercession:**

Saint Lucy, you did not hide your light under a basket, but let it shine for the whole world, for all the centuries to see. We may not suffer torture in our lives the way you did, but we are still called to let the light of our Christianity illumine our daily lives. Please help us to have the courage to bring our Christianity into

our work, our recreation, our relationships, our conversation -- every corner of our day. Amen. (Sign of the Cross)

POPE Benedict XVI TO YOUNG PEOPLE: HAVE THE COURAGE TO BE SAINTS

VATICAN CITY, 24 SEP 2011 (VIS) - Following his meeting with members of the Central Committee for German Catholics at the Seminary of Freiburg im Breisgau, Benedict XVI travelled to the city fairgrounds where he presided at a prayer vigil with young people. Extracts from the Holy Father's address are given below.

He began by referring to the candle-lighting ceremony, which was part of the vigil. In an imitation of the Easter rite of lighting the Paschal candle, the Pope lit candles borne by a number of young people who, in their turn, lit candles carried by others. "This wonderful liturgical rite ", he said, "reveals to us in signs more eloquent than words the mystery of our Christian faith. Jesus who says of Himself: 'I am the light of the world', causes our lives to shine brightly, so that what we have just heard in the Gospel comes true: 'You are the light of the world'.

"It is not our human efforts or the technical progress of our era that brings light into this world", the Holy Father added. "Again and again we have to experience how our striving to bring about a better and more just world hits against its limits. Innocent suffering and the ultimate fact of death awaiting every single person are an impenetrable darkness. ... While all around us there may be darkness and gloom, yet we see a light: ... Christ, risen from the dead, shines in this world and He does so most brightly in those places where, in human terms, everything is sombre and hopeless".

"To be sure, those who believe in Jesus do not lead lives of perpetual sunshine, as though they could be spared suffering and hardship, but there is always a bright glimmer there, lighting up the path that leads to fullness of life. The eyes of those who believe in Christ see light even amid the darkest night and they already see the dawning of a new day.

"Light does not remain alone. All around, other lights are flaring up. In their gleam, space acquires contours, so that we can find our bearings. We do not live alone in this world. And it is for the important things of life that we have to rely on other people. Particularly in our faith, then, we do not stand alone, we are links in the great chain of believers. Nobody can believe unless he is supported by the faith of others, and conversely, through my faith, I help to strengthen others in their faith".

The idea of sainthood has often been distorted

"We increasingly experience the failure of our efforts and our personal shortcomings, despite our best intentions. In the final analysis, the world in which we live, in spite of its technical progress, does not seem to be getting any better.

There is still war and terror, hunger and disease, bitter poverty and merciless oppression. And even those figures in our history who saw themselves as 'bringers of light' - without being fired by Christ, the one true light - did not manage to create an earthly paradise, but set up dictatorships and totalitarian systems, in which even the smallest spark of true humanity was choked".

"At this point we cannot remain silent about the existence of evil. We see it in so many places in this world; but we also see it - and this scares us - in our own lives. Truly, within our hearts there is a tendency towards evil, there is selfishness, envy, aggression. Perhaps with a certain self-discipline all this can to some degree be controlled. But it becomes more difficult with faults that are somewhat hidden, that can engulf us like a thick fog, such as sloth, or laziness in willing and doing good. Again and again in history, keen observers have pointed out that damage to the Church comes not from her opponents, but from uncommitted Christians".

"Dear friends, again and again the very notion of saints has been caricatured and distorted, as if to be holy meant to be remote from the world, naive and joyless. Often it is thought that a saint has to be someone with great ascetic and moral achievements, who might well be revered, but could never be imitated in our own lives. How false and discouraging this opinion is! There is no saint, apart from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who has not also known sin, who has never fallen. Dear friends, Christ is not so much interested in how often in your lives you stumble and fall, as in how often you pick yourselves up again. He does not demand glittering achievements, but He wants His light to shine in you. He does not call you because you are good and perfect, but because He is good and He wants to make you His friends. Yes, you are the light of the world because Jesus is your light. You are Christians - not because you do special and extraordinary things, but because Christ is your life. You are holy because His grace is at work in you".

"This gathering shines in more ways than one - in the glow of innumerable lights, in the radiance of so many young people who believe in Christ. A candle can only give light if it lets itself be consumed by the flame. It would remain useless if its wax failed to nourish the fire. Allow Christ to burn in you, even at the cost of sacrifice and renunciation. Do not be afraid that you might lose something and, so to speak, emerge empty-handed at the end. Have the courage to apply your talents and gifts for God's kingdom and to give yourselves - like candle wax - so that the Lord can light up the darkness through you. I am confident that you and many other young people here in Germany are lamps of hope that do not remain hidden. 'You are the light of the world'".

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