

SACRAMENTS: SESSION NINE

Session 9. Our youth will appreciate the Church Jesus formed in terms of the image of light and understand how this impacts the living of their lives as members of Church.

Parents: In the eternal plan of God to bring all to Himself, God sent Jesus to be visible sign of God's presence and action in the world. Christ's presence spoke. When Jesus left to return to the Father, the plan called for a Community (Church) to continue that presence to all people. Church and the people who form it in every age are a sign of God's presence and love. Last week we looked at one image that Jesus used to describe us – the image of yeast or leaven. Today, Christ invites us to reflect on perhaps the most profound of the images to outline our job description as People of God – the Image of Light. Make this image part of your reflection. It describes church most relevantly.

Jesus tells us: **LIGHT :: CHURCH**
DARK WORLD

TO DARKNESS LIGHT BRINGS THE POSSIBILITY OF:

1. **VISION.** In darkness, one cannot see obstacles, runs the risk of falling, cannot discern where one is.
2. **Understanding** In darkness, I am unable to perceive any others present, I cannot see where I am or how I relate to the world around me.
3. **Direction** In darkness, I am not conscious of in which direction to go, how to proceed. I cannot see options.
4. **Beauty** Ability to perceive beauty which darkness inhibits
Ability to detect the worlds glory as God's gift.
5. **Meaning** In darkness, one shuts down, is baffled, confused, uncertain, panicked. Light changes all of that.

TO THE WORLD, CHURCH (PEOPLE) MUST, BY THE WAY WE LIVE, SHOW TO OTHERS WHAT LIFE IS ALL ABOUT.
Looking at the Church (At people like ourselves), the world must

1. **See life as it really is: Gift of God, to be lived for others, and lasting forever.**
2. **Understand the world as training ground for living with God forever**
3. **Showing by how we live what is of lasting value and the need to live for others.**
4. **Seeing life's joys with gratitude – life's pits with a realization it's not all here.**
5. **Knowing what is of lasting value and seeking it consistently and genuinely.**

This image is an important one. It gives us our Job Description as members of the Faith Community:

SO LIVE THAT OTHERS KNOW WHAT IS OF LASTING VALUE AND PURSUE IT.

The Challenge: Wisdom of the World and Wisdom of God are on opposite sides. To be church:

- One cannot be part of the "in-group.
- One cannot accept, the values of the world but must critique them in the light of that for which Jesus stood.
- One must walk a lonely path – walk to the beat of a different drummer.
- One must know that things make sense on six different levels, all of which make sense.
- These are: Emotion, Wisdom of the world, Media, Civil Law, Peers, and What Jesus said and thought.
- Church must move beyond what makes sense on the above levels and opt for the last level.
- And this is known as tough love.
- God speaks to everyone in their hearts. We respect this as Catholics
- God also counts on us to live WWJD – WWJT.

Must we not be loyal to the God who counts on us to be Christ for Him in each stage of the world's history