

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus gives us two powerful metaphors for our identity: we are the "salt of the earth" and the "light of the world" (Matthew 5:13-16). These aren't just suggestions for how to behave; they are declarations of who we already are in him. Because Christ is our light and in him, we see light, we are challenged not to keep our faith private, but to let it shine through good works—feeding the hungry, comforting the sorrowful, and bringing joy to our daily lives.

St. Francis of Assisi embodied the "salt and light" by radically living the Gospel, transforming society through poverty, peace, and love. As salt of the earth, he preserved the faith through radical humility. By abandoning wealth to live as a beggar, Francis provided a "salty" critique to a materialistic world, restoring the flavor of the Gospel. He brought peace to warring factions, acting as a preservative against social corruption and hatred. By admonishing and teaching, Francis was unafraid to speak uncomfortable truths to power, such as his meeting with the Sultan, to bring the "flavor" of God's wisdom to others.

As light of the world, his life was a beacon of joy, offering hope to the marginalized in the darkness of despair. His sermon to the birds and taming of the Wolf of Gubbio demonstrated that his light extended to all of creation, illuminating God's love in unexpected ways. By living a life of voluntary poverty and service, he literally and figuratively shone light upon a broken and corrupt institution, repairing it through his example. St. Francis's life demonstrates that being salt and light is not about self-glorification, but rather acting as an instrument of peace and love to illuminate God's glory. As we go forth, let us act as Christ's light, adding flavor and love to a world often in darkness.

Peace and All Good!

Fr. Luke
Parochial Administrator