

**THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES**  
**January 26, 2020**  
**Third Sunday of Ordinary Time**  
**Isaiah 8:23–9:3 † 1 Corinthians 1:10–13, 17 † Matthew 4:12–23**



**Reflection by: Sister Pat Crowley, OP**

*The glory of God is a human being fully alive, and to be alive consists in beholding God.*  
—St. Irenaeus of Lyons

Jesus is a great light. Not the harshness of a spotlight bringing out all our imperfections but rather the soft glow of candlelight which brings out the better parts of our faces, leaving the less than perfect hidden. Jesus is that gentle light. As has been said, he comes as the forgiver of souls, a quiet lover of human faces.

Jesus comes to continue the mission of John the Baptist—“*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*” He encounters and engages pairs of brothers: Simon and Andrew, James and John. They are fishermen but will soon fish for those who seek more in life. When Jesus calls, the first two leave their nets; the second two leave their father. In leaving all, they shine light on what is discipleship, costing not less than everything.

How did they see him? Was it as a great light? Did they see him as the great diffuser of darkness? They may have heard John the Baptist call him *The Messiah*, the one who the Jews had been anticipating for so long.

In following Jesus, would they be at times confused, disappointed, hoping for quicker results? He would not infringe on every aspect of one’s life as a spotlight would do. He would be a quiet glow. He would raise no powerful armies or send lightning bolts to destroy his enemies. Jesus and his mission would be a quiet flicker that no strong wind could extinguish. Isaiah’s words coming to fruition:

The people who walked in darkness  
Have seen a great light;  
Upon those who dwell in the land of gloom  
A light has shone.  
—Isaiah 9:1-2