

Melba Enriquez
Third Homework Assignment
Professor Marzo Arttime

Lumen Fidei

In *Lumen Fidei*'s introduction we read the following, "The light of Faith: this is how the Church's tradition speaks of the great gift brought by Jesus." Merriam Webster defines light as "*something* that makes *vision* possible. Jesus is the light of Faith. He is the "*someone*" who restores our spiritual vision and shines light upon the darkness we find within ourselves and our world. In John's Gospel, Christ tells us the following, "I have come as light into the world, that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness" (*Jn* 12:46). Jesus wants to share His gift of light with us. He does not want us to remain in darkness. Spiritual darkness may include feelings of doubt, loneliness, anxiety, and abandonment. Jesus brings the light of faith to our life when we allow him to enter our life. "Faith is born of an encounter with the living God who calls us and reveals his love, a love which precedes us and upon which we can lean for security and for building our lives." (*Lumen Fidei*). As we encounter and embrace Jesus in the sacraments, scripture, and prayer our lives begin to take new form. We grow to trust in Jesus's love and plan for our lives. Thus, the light of faith begins to chase away our spiritual darkness and that of the world. I now realize that my feelings of joy and love when attending Mass and receiving Jesus in the Eucharist are gifts given to me by Jesus. I am unable to create these feelings of joy and love myself, it is the light of faith that allows me to celebrate Mass each Sunday with joy and love for Jesus.

"Since faith is a light, it draws us into itself, inviting us to explore ever more fully the horizon which it illumines, all the better to know the object of our love. Christian theology is born of this desire." This idea of faith as a light mentioned in *Lumen Fidei* became evident to me after my Emmaus Retreat experience. I had a desire to learn more about God, I felt a sort of pull towards Him. After reading these words I realize this pull was God's loving invitation to enter into a relationship with Him. I had a desire to get to know Him. I began reading Scripture, attending Mass, and listening to Catholic radio. Simply stated, I wanted to immerse myself in God's love. I had found a light during my Emmaus retreat, this light was a spark of faith, and it began to illumine my heart, mind, and soul. feared losing it.

"Theology thus demands the humility to be "touched" by God, admitting its own limitations before the mystery, while striving to investigate, with the discipline proper to reason, the inexhaustible riches of this mystery" (*Lumen Fidei*). This quote reminds me to remain

humble before God, so He may be free to touch and continue to mold me according to His will. I'm reminded of my need to allow God to prune my pride and ego, so I am able to remain humble and realize my limitations before His mysterious ways. Finally, this quote encourages me to continue seeking God and not become complacent in my faith life. I must nurture my relationship with God, so His light of faith continues to illuminate my earthly pilgrimage.