



*do justice • love tenderly • walk humbly with God* Micah 6:8

**December 31, 2024**

We begin all of our prayer in the presence of our loving Creator; because we are all created in the very image and likeness of God!

**As a Christian community, we know this:**

**God's love is for everyone!**

**Daily reflection:**

*(Lumen Gentium)*

The Church just marked the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Vatican II's "*Lumen Gentium*" ("Light of the Nations"), the Constitution on the very nature of the Church. In it, we read:

"Christ was sent by the Father 'to bring good news to the poor, to heal the contrite of heart', 'to seek and to save what was lost'. Similarly, the Church encompasses with love all who are afflicted with human suffering and in the poor and afflicted sees the image of its poor and suffering Founder. It does all it can to relieve their need and in them it strives to serve Christ."

The Church is "a sign and instrument both of a very closely knit union with God and of the unity of the whole human race".

**Daily decision for action...**

Just as Christ is the Light of the Nations, the Church – all of us – are likewise called to be a light to the world. *Lumen Gentium* gives us some specific ways to be that light: to work to relieve human suffering and to bring love to those who are afflicted. It makes the point over and over that we don't do this alone, we do it together.

Let's find ways to work together to relieve the suffering and affliction around us.

**Intercessions/ our prayer for our world:**

For the Church as we celebrate these days of joy, may we also be people of peace.

For all nations in the world, for an end to conflict and suffering.

For everyone who has lost a loved one this past year, may the peace and love of Christ rest in their hearts.

For all of us, that we will be sources of light and love to those who endure hardship.

**Blessing:** *(the prayer of Aaron upon the people: Num. 6:23b–26)*

May the Lord bless you and keep you!

May the Lord let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you!

May the Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace!

*And we say together with all of the people of God:*

**Amen!**