

## Homily for Jubilee 2022

July 30, 2022

Written by Sister Noreen Walter

Delivered at the Jubilee Mass by Sister Nancy Bauman

I want to acknowledge that Sister Noreen Walter was invited to give this Jubilee homily. As you will hear during the homily, she did a lot of research on lighthouses and prisms. I am grateful for her research and her reflective words. Circumstances beyond her control, dictated that she was not able to give the homily. So I was invited to fill in for her. What an honor!!!!

*O God of Jubilee, you are a lamp for our steps, a light for our paths.*

Jubilarians, we, who are gathered here today, are very happy to be with you to celebrate Jubilee 2022. What do we celebrate today? We are celebrating YOU and the light of Jubilee that you have shared with us. Truly you light up our lives.

Let us reflect upon the light of Jubilee --- a light so needed in our world today. We find ourselves in a world that sometimes seems so dark: wars, Covid, mass shootings, violence, floods, fires- -- Doesn't our world need light right now?

So for you, who celebrate 50, 60, 70 and 75 years of Jubilee today---we want you to know that you have been a light in a world that has often been in darkness. A darkness that you at the Mother House and in Ross Hall experienced when the power went out last Thursday.

I continue with Noreen's words . . . How wonderful that you have chosen a theme of light. Let us look at the celebration of Jubilee and light today. We celebrate today the "light" that you have been over all these years.

I was reflecting on this "light" you have been -- then when I realized that in the creation story, light is the first thing that God created. God said, "Let there be light" and God separated the light from the darkness.

Today let us reflect on how you have separated the light from the darkness in your own part of the world. You have been the light of God's creation for us and many others. We, who have followed this Gospel Way of life, know that God is light. That is what our first reading tells us. "If we live in light, and God is in that light, we share in each other's life." Isn't that what we celebrate today a sharing in each other's life and light? Like our God of Jubilee, *you are a lamp for our steps, a light for our paths.*

In our gospel reading, we hear Jesus say to the people: "You are the light of the world." Jesus did not think of himself as the **only** light. We, who are his followers, have the gift and the responsibility to reflect God's light. God is light. So for these 50, 60, 70, or 75 years, you have been reflecting that light to those around you to those whom you served, to those with whom you worked, to US! Even today wherever you find yourself,

you are reflecting God's light to others. You have been and ARE this light.

Let us look more closely at the analogy of a lighthouse as it might help us understand how we are light in the world. Certain lighthouses can send a beam as far as 28 miles out to sea. Of course, they have an extremely bright bulb. A lighthouse is able to shine that far not only, because of the intensity of this bulb, but also, because surrounding the bulb in a modern lighthouse are dozens of small prisms that help to intensify and to focus the light. Now the prisms have no intrinsic light but they are essential to the lighthouse. The bulb radiates brightly and creates the light but the prisms enable the light to shine far beyond the sphere that would be illuminated by the bulb alone.

**Here I have a prism** -- Similar to the one which could maybe be found in the lighthouse. Reflecting the light!!

**Now for a moment** -- I would like you to think about how you have been a prism reflecting and sharing the light of Christ.

PAUSE !!!!

You know, love, and serve Christ our Light. We realize that Christ could be the light all by himself, but he has chosen to shine in the world through us. When you and I share in the life of Christ, we are his prisms -- so to speak. His light shines through us in such a way that we also serve as light in the world. You have been this light.

*You are a lamp for our steps, a light for our paths.*

Finally, another "light" I want to share with you is the "Light of Insight". You, who have taken time each day to pray and to be present to God. Often, you have shared in what I am calling the "light of insight". These are those times during the 50, 60, 70 and 75 years that you have come to know and understand insights from your own experiences of life. It does not always come from times of prayer, but, perhaps during the day -- some event that has happened. when you come to know something in a new light. I am sure you have experienced this and when you do you realize it is a special "light" or insight for you! Often you share this with others, with us.

*You are a lamp for our steps, a light for our paths.*

So today as you celebrate Jubilee, rejoice in the way that light has been part of your life. The way you have separated light from darkness in your part of the world. The way you have been a lighthouse to others, reflecting Christ to them. The way God has given you insights in knowing God and God's moments of grace. You have been this light. This Jubilee light for us. Thank you for being a light in our lives—a prism!

*Thank you for being a lamp for our steps, a light for our paths.*

PAUSE!!!

We now invite our Jubilarians to renew their vows to our Almighty and Eternal God.