

St Pius & St Anthony Homily Feast Presentation Ordinary Year C (2024)

Today's Feast of the Presentation of the Lord is a celebration of Light, because Jesus is exactly that: **The Light of the World** (Jn 8:12 & 9:5) Simeon proclaims as much, too, in his song, (*My eyes have seen the glory-light—Luke 2:30-32*). So it has me thinking about the recently added 'Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary'. Where did they come from? Of course, a lot of **older**, and beautifully worn (Like good bibles or prayer missals that have ruffled-edge pages, or their covers nearly falling off because of so much use—a good sign!), Rosary prayer books do not have them in it, because it was Pope St John Paul who introduced the additional mysteries to meditate upon and pray, just back in 2006. We may be slow (yes even 20 years later) to have picked them up and add them into our daily rotation of rosaries prayed (*Joyful on Mondays and Saturdays, Sorrowful on Tuesdays and Fridays, Glorious on Wednesdays and Sundays and Luminous on Thursdays*) but I also say that everyone has their favorite set of Mysteries—be they joyful, glorious, sorrowful or luminous (it's always more important 'THAT' we pray, than exactly 'HOW' we pray—Just do it—PRAY). But, as if we Catholics did not already have a lot of numbers to have memorized in our faith, (7 Sacraments, 7 gifts Holy Spirit, 12 Fruits of Spirit, 10 Commandments, 8 Beatitudes, 4 Cardinal Virtues, 3 Theological Virtues, 6 precepts of Church, 5 Joyful, 5 Sorrowful, 5 Glorious Mysteries) then, along came St John Paul to add 5 more possible mysteries to pray! Funny thing about this is that back in 2006, I had a dear friend, *God rest his soul*. He was very devout/prayerful (& he realized that we Catholics can sometimes fall into the trap of fixating on the externals of religion instead of the heart and core of our faith) **Well**, he got so angry about church after that introduction of the 5 New Luminous Mysteries. He complained to me, that the church was 'messing with the rosary' by changing things. This actually happened, and we both laughed afterward, when he one time was railing on in a tirade about, "Why mess up a good thing, by changing practice on rosary and add mysteries, (Yes, he said) who does John Paul think He is.....?" We both smiled, when he was about to actually, say it "the POPE!" Well, yes He is Pope!

But what about those Luminous mysteries? They are all about Revelations of who God is: (Jesus— or 'Light from Light' as we say in the Creed every Sunday) Events where Jesus is revealed to us as God! 1) Baptism of Lord 2) Wedding of Cana, 3) Proclamation of the Kingdom, 4) Transfiguration, 5) Institution of the Holy Eucharist. I find a wonderful parallel between the Luminous Mysteries and the past three Sundays' gospels. Granted okay, the Presentation Mystery Today (as light!) was already claimed in our set of Joyfuls, but the other three are counted as Luminous: 1) Jesus' Baptism, 2) the Miracle at Cana and 3) His Inaugural Visit to Home Synagogue—Proclaiming the Kingdom Come. (*Of course, who am I, but if asked I*

might have said, Epiphany-it is own is Light!- should have been the first one!) In fact, from Epiphany Sunday until now, each Sunday's gospel has made known the identity of Jesus as God (revealed-shone it to us!) So we have kind of been living through a Season of Epiphanies each Sunday since Christmas!

But St John Paul filled out the set of five Luminous Mysteries, with two more, 4) Transfiguration (*certainly a lit-up occasion-Jesus' Glory Shone on the Mount with Elijah & Moses*) and the 5) Institution of Holy Eucharist by Jesus. I love John Paul's teaching moment for us, by him naming the Institution of the Holy Eucharist as the 5th. He is teaching that every Mass, is an ongoing 'Reveal' celebration (like birth 'Reveal Parties' today!) of Jesus' Divinity - Every Mass becomes an epiphany for us-God reveals Himself. Here He is. (Jesus says, "My Body-My Blood-Real PRESENCE) So, here we are, this Sunday fulfilling a season of Epiphanies with the celebration of Jesus' Presentation in the Temple!

Yet what does this mean for us? Well, we are called to be like the other characters Simeon and Anna. Notice their roles as evangelists after the event. They proclaim God's presence and call attention for others to know just who is coming to them. Simeon and Anna both share this Good News that God has come to them-what God has done for them! We actually hear Simeon's song of praise and thanks, for God blessing him to have even encountered the Christ! And Simeon and Anna share that hope with others. We are called also to pass along this Good News (Positive, Uplifting, Hopeful- Nothing else should leave our lips but this Good Jesus). Jesus and only Jesus, is the Hope and Light of our World. A great question for us to carry into this new week, is "How can we be better at sharing this Light of Him with others?"

Additional Notes:

Example Demonstrating the Role of the Holy Spirit Behind all Revelations of God:

Luke 1:35 Angel tells Mary that "Holy Spirit will come upon her" conceiving Christ

Luke 1:41 Elizabeth "is filled with the Holy Spirit" as she praises Mary's blessing

Luke 1:67 Zechariah 'filled with Holy Spirit' pronounces God's work through John

Luke 2:27 Simeon, informed by Spirit, and "in the Spirit" when he prophesizes

Luke 3:22 Holy Spirit descends in bodily form upon Jesus at Baptism by John

Luke 4:1 Jesus is 'led by Spirit' into desert for prayer period prior to ministry

Luke 4:14 Jesus is 'led by Spirit' back to hometown for ministry's start

Luke 4:18 Jesus pronounces prophetically "Spirit of Lord is upon me....."

Study: Simeon's Prophecy about Jesus as a 'Sign of Contradiction'

"This child is destined for the *falling* and the *rising* of many in Israel, (Luke 2:34).

God brings about Reversals!

Luke 1:52 Mary had praised the work of God revealing 'reversals'

"the Mighty will be brought down and the lowly lifted up"

Luke 1:79 Zechariah prophesies that coming Messiah 'lighten the darkness'

"to shine on those who sit in darkness and death's shadow"

However, Jesus will teach so much about the 'reversals' that He/God will bring about, such as "the one who is least among you is the one who is greatest" (Lk 9:48)

or Luke 13:30 "Some last will be first and some first will be last"

Further examples of reversals effected by God, see Luke 6:20-26; 12:13-21;

Luke 14:12-14; 16:19-25; 18:18-26; 19:1-10).