

Francis ... went around the cities and villages,
proclaiming the kingdom of God and preaching peace...
in the learning and power of the Spirit.

At that time,...

it surely seemed a new light
had been sent from heaven to earth
driving away the darkness
that had so nearly covered the whole region
that hardly anyone knew where to turn.

**He gleamed like a shining star in the darkness of night
and like the morning spread over the darkness.**

1 Celano XV 36-37



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

In our time, in this year 2018, we, too, feel
enveloped in a darkness that daily sunshine does
not dispel. Darkness in our society and
in our church, insidiously pervading our lives and
penetrating the lives of those we love and to whom
we minister, often in crisis proportion.

We yearn for light, yet know we must
become LIGHT to dispel the darkness,
a new light in our time as Francis was in his.
We are called to see and to listen,
called to be faithful and creative
in our response of being a peace-presence within
the turmoil.

On this feast of Francis where we join
in his Transitus from the world of his day
to the celebration of the fullness of LIGHT
in the loving embrace of God,

let us have new eyes and new hearts –

Let us see how we can be a new light.

Let us be heralds of peace, bringing our desire for peace
to reality every day in every way.

Let us pray for the help of Francis
to understand the urgings of the Holy Spirit within us:

Most High and Glorious God,
enlighten the darkness of our minds...

A Blessed Feast of St. Francis!

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