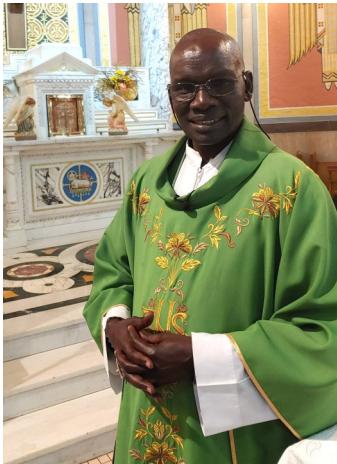


PASTOR'S REFLECTION
The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2026



**Fr. Louis Okot, MCCJ,
pastor**

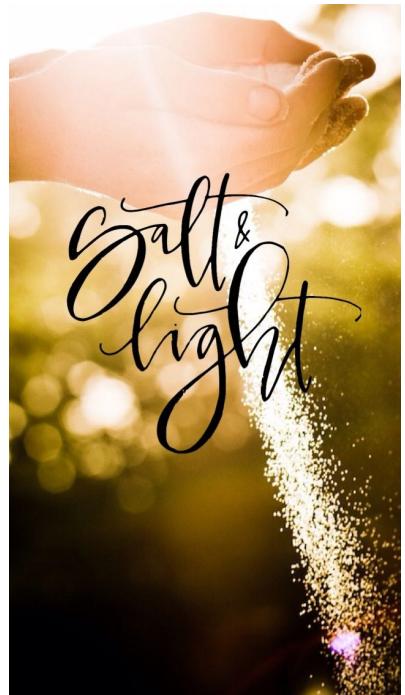
Salt and Light Missionaries

My Brothers and Sisters in the Risen Lord,

As Catholics and as Christians, most of us sincerely desire to live our faith well. We attend Mass, pray for those we love, and try to act with kindness and integrity. Yet many of us hesitate when it comes to seeing ourselves as active missionaries of Christ in the world. Instead, we sometimes wait for others to take the lead. We look outward, hoping for a dynamic pope, an inspiring priest, a heroic saint, or an especially gifted layperson to step forward and restore what feels broken in our society and even within the Church itself.

Today, on the Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time, Jesus gently but firmly redirects our gaze. In the Gospel from Matthew, he does not speak only to religious leaders or to a select few. He speaks to all who are listening and says, "You are the salt of the earth" and "You are the light of the world." Not someone else. Not the more eloquent, the more outgoing, or the seemingly holier among us. Jesus looks at ordinary people, people like you and me, and entrusts us with an extraordinary mission.

Salt and light are simple elements, yet they are powerful. Salt preserves and enhances flavor but only when it is shared. Light dispels darkness but only when it shines outward. Neither exists for its own sake. In the same way, our faith comes alive when it is poured out for others through compassion, integrity, generosity, and quiet acts of service. When we live this way, the presence of Christ becomes visible in the world through us.



Jesus tells us that a lamp is not meant to be hidden under a basket. It is placed on a stand so that it can give light to all in the house. Each of us carries a light that is meant to be seen, not for our own praise, but so that others may glimpse the goodness of God at work. A word of encouragement, a willingness to forgive, a commitment to serve, or the courage to stand for what is right can become a small but powerful flame that changes a life.

In our own time and in our own local Church, we are being invited to think differently and to embrace new ways of living and working together. Programs and structures may change, but the heart of the Gospel remains the same. Christ calls us to participate, to engage, and to trust that when we do, our lives and our communities will be transformed. When we choose to be salt and light, we discover that God works through our willingness in ways we could never have imagined.

Saint Francis of Assisi once said, "**All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle.**" That candle is already within you. Let it shine.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Louis

**OUR LADY
OF GUADALUPE
FAMILY OF PARISHES**



HOLY FAMILY CHURCH
ST. BONIFACE CHURCH
ST. JOSEPH CHURCH
**ST. LEO THE GREAT
CHURCH**
**ST. THÉRÈSE LITTLE
FLOWER CHURCH**