*Host or designated reader/leader begins the Upper Room prayer hour by reading this message from Fr. David:*

 **Message for September 2018**

Dear Friends in Christ;

In John’s Gospel the first words Jesus is recorded as saying are these*: “What are you looking for?”* This question sets a tone for the whole Gospel as John the Evangelist creates a world for what can be found in the person of Jesus. We are going to be walking in the world of Jesus in the Gospel of John as Jesus defines and teaches his disciples about Himself, by telling His audience who He is in a simple straightforward manner. In these next few months, in our **Upper Rooms** we will get to know Jesus by looking at His titles.

This month, the title of Jesus we will study is *“I am the light of the world”*:

*Open with Sign of Cross and the:*

**Prayer to the Holy Spirit**

L: **Come, O Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful, and enkindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth Your Spirit, O Lord, and they shall be created.**

R: And You shall renew the face of the earth

L: **Let us pray – God our Father, pour out the gifts of your Holy Spirit on the world. You sent the Spirit on Your Church to begin the teaching of the Gospel; now let the Spirit continue to work in the world through the hearts of all who believe. Through Christ our Lord.**

R: Amen

L: **You, O lord, will open my lips.**

R: And my tongue shall announce Your praise.

L: **Incline unto my aid, O God.**

R: O Lord, make haste to help me.

L: **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit**.

R: As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen

**Read and Discuss**

*Read John 8:1-20*

* These passages seem to be about making judgments, especially by appearances. Why is this so wrong? Do you have stories or examples of when you judged another by appearances alone?
* What is the significance of the light of truth in making judgements?
* The Pharisees’ vision to see the truth was clouded by what reality?
* The woman caught in adultery was blinded by her sin but Jesus opened her eyes and she regained her dignity. What do you think Jesus was writing on the ground before all?
* The light of the Father was the light of Christ. Similarly our light is the light of Christ. Discuss

*Read CCC 748*

"Christ is the light of humanity; and it is, accordingly, the heart-felt desire of this sacred Council, being gathered together in the Holy Spirit, that, by proclaiming his Gospel to every creature, it may bring to all men that light of Christ which shines out visibly from the Church."

These words open the Second Vatican Council's Dogmatic Constitution on the Church. By choosing this starting point, the Council demonstrates that the article of faith about the Church depends entirely on the articles concerning Christ Jesus. The Church has no other light than Christ's; according to a favorite image of the Church Fathers, the Church is like the moon, all its light reflected from the sun.”

* Light of humankind and light of the Church, that is Christ’s light. How do we make His light visible?
* Every part of the world is governed by the Church. Even vast deserts and pagan regions of the world have a titular bishop assigned to that region. What is a titular bishop? What does this truth reflect about the will of God?
* “The Church has no other light but Christ’s.” Is this so? What about Mary and the saints and all the work of the Church that service the poor and the vulnerable? What about the beauty of God’s creation and all the artwork and medicine and technology that has been created to make our lives easier?
* Jesus shows the way. Why does He will this? Answer: read JN 12:46

 *In conclusion:*

* Imagine being in the dark in your home and yet you still bump into things. You have lived in this house for decades and you still need the light to direct your steps. Discuss needing the light of Christ as a constant source of light, even though you have walked the faithful path.
* Imagine the hazards of white-out conditions on the road or your wind-shield fogging up so you can’t see. You panic. You could die. Leave the road, hit a big tree… over. When we take our eyes off Jesus… what does this feel like for you? How does the Catholic regain the light in their hearts? Is there a healthy sense of panic when you lose Christ’s light? What is this called?
* Imagine the drops you get at the Eye Dr. to dilate your pupils. You can see some things but your vision is blurry at certain long-distances. Picking and choosing what you want to see or be enlightened about and what things you choose not to is problematic. Christ desires to shed His light on all things. It is short-sighted of us to not allow Him that right. What fuzzy parts of our worlds do we choose apart from the life of Christ’s light?
* What are the luminous mysteries? What does the light of Christ have to do with each mystery? Discuss

**Pray the 5 luminous mysteries.**

*Next month’s UPPER ROOM is on the 2nd of Jesus’ Titles in the Gospel of John*