

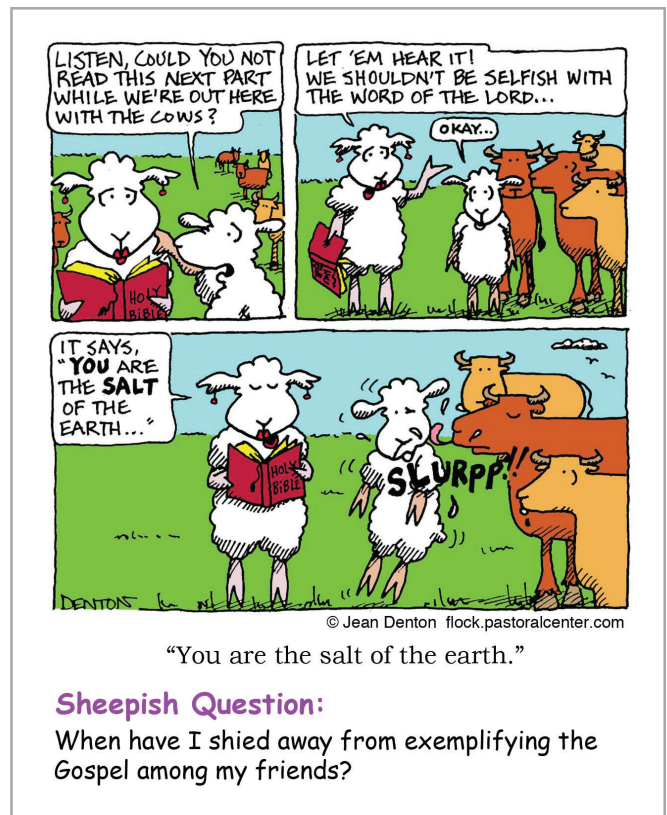
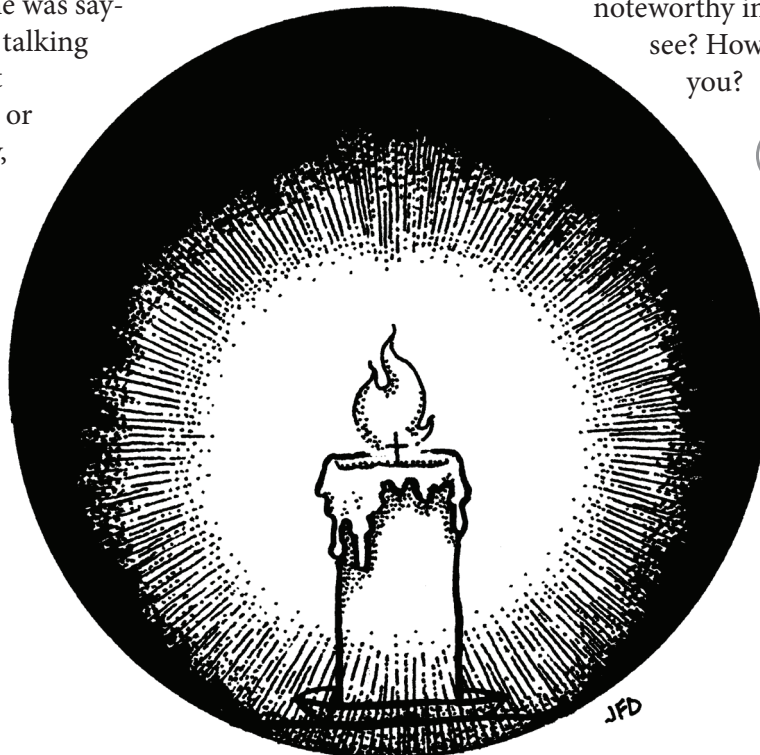
He Saw Something in Them

This Week's Readings at Mass

- Isaiah 58:7-10 • Caring for the needy
- 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 • Preaching on Christ crucified
- Matthew 5:13-16 • Salt of the earth, light of the world

Jesus' metaphor for his disciples "You are the salt of the earth" may not seem that noteworthy to us living in a time when salt is just one very common seasoning among dozens in the food we eat. Yet in Jesus' day, salt was one of the few seasonings used regularly in a diet that was much more restricted—we might even say "boring"—than the rich variety of foods we have access to today. For that reason alone it was a precious commodity. Not only was salt used as the primary flavoring of his time, but it was also used to preserve fish and meat in the days before refrigerators and freezers. Salt was so precious that Roman soldiers were sometimes paid in salt, or given allowances to buy it.

When Jesus tells his disciples they are "salt of the earth" and "light of the world" (in a world where there was no such thing as artificial light at the flip of a switch) he was saying something! He was talking to people who were not wealthy, well-educated, or high-ranking in society, so this was probably news to them. They probably would have been surprised to hear this, a bit proud, and very likely eager to rise to the challenge for someone who saw such goodness and potential in them. Jesus had high expectations for them which



"You are the salt of the earth."

gave them a chance to grow into their new role as salt and light for the world.

Questions of the Week

- 1 When have you had an experience of someone seeing something good and noteworthy in you that others didn't see? How did that recognition affect you?
- 2 How might Jesus be calling you to let "your light shine before others" this week?

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