

**An elderly priest recalled going to visit his niece and that he got to drive her new car. Her car has what are called “running lights.” The headlights go on with the ignition. They are always on when the car is running, day or night.**

**He wondered why anyone would have the lights on when the sun is shining. It dawned upon him that the purpose of running lights is NOT for you to see other cars in the daytime, but for other drivers to better see your car - for added safety. Running lights help others to see you.**

**Today’s gospel says: “Your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds, and glorify your heavenly Father.” Christians should have running lights.**

**The traditional term is “good example.” We are to give good example to others. And we, in turn, are to benefit from the good example of our neighbor.**

**Most grandparents or parents would be surprised how often their grandchildren/ children, see, and hear, and remember everything.**

**Little children often say things like, “My grandma goes to church every day.” “My grandpa says, “Tell the truth even if it hurts.” “My aunt helps at the food pantry.” Unfortunately, they also say things like, “My grandma likes to gossip.” “My uncle doesn’t go to church.” “You should hear my dad cuss.”**

**We are personally responsible for what we say and do, we are also responsible for the effect it has on others. Few of us would deny that our own most fundamental values were shaped by the example of others, especially our parents and grandparents.**

+Quiz: Name the five wealthiest people in the world. 2. Name the last five Heisman trophy winners. 3. Name the last five winners of the Miss America Pageant. Do you know all these answers? Probably not.

Ask yourself some additional questions: 1. Who fed and clothed you when you were sick or hurting? 2. What was the name of your 1st grade teacher (I should know, as I spent 2 years there – Sr. Regina)? 3. Who is the first friend you would call in an emergency? You do know the answers to these questions. They are the salt and light of the world.

**All this light shining could be misconstrued as vanity or pride, if we want others to notice our goodness and acknowledge our virtue. But the gospel reads, “Your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds” and then glorify God. No vanity in that if it leads to glorifying God.**

**Others are not to see so much that I am doing a good deed but the good deed that is being done. They are to see the grace of God at work. The job of salt was to make something taste good.**

I don't know about you, but I can't stand corn on the cob without salt on it. When I have eaten a piece of corn on the cob that I really like, I put it down, and what do I say?

"That was great salt." No, I say, "That was great corn on the cob." Why? Because the job of the salt is not to make you think how great the salt is, but how great the thing is with which it's involved.

**+Mother Teresa was often praised for the good work that she did. Her standard response was, "I am just a little pencil with which God is writing. The pencil is not important. It is the message that God is writing, not the pencil, that is important." And if anyone had running lights, Mother Teresa had running lights.**

**So Jesus then "commissions" us, and sends us out into the world to be "the salt of the earth," and to be bearers of light. We can do it, even though our lives may seem to be small, and insignificant.**

**Remember, just a small amount of salt, or a tiny little light can produce wonderful results!**

**Many recipes call for just a "pinch" of salt! Just one, small, caring, loving, act of kindness can enrich the lives of dozens of people! We can do that. Even a small amount of light can "light up" an entire room.**

**So can a smile do the same thing, or a phone call, a word of comfort, or encouragement, or a visit to someone who is ill or alone! We can do that.**

Our one light can scatter any darkness, no matter how dark it may seem.

+In the Ukraine election, the reformer Victor Yushchenko, challenged the entrenched party and nearly died for it. On election-day the exit polls showed Yushchenko with a comfortable lead, but through outright fraud, the government had reversed those results.

That evening the state-run television reported, "Ladies and gentlemen, we announce that the challenger Victor Yushchenko has been decisively defeated." However, government authorities had not taken into account one feature of Ukrainian television, the translation it provides for the hearing-impaired.

On the small screen insert in the lower right-hand corner of the television screen a brave woman raised by deaf-mute parents gave a different message in sign language. "I am addressing all the deaf citizens of Ukraine.

Don't believe what they say. They are lying, and I am ashamed to translate these lies. Yushchenko is our President!" No one in the studio understood her radical sign-language

message. Inspired by that courageous translator, deaf people led what became known as the Orange Revolution. They text-messaged their friends on mobile phones about the fraudulent elections, and soon other journalists took courage ... and likewise refused to broadcast the party line.

Over the next few weeks as many as a million people wearing orange flooded the capital city of Kiev to demand new elections. The government finally buckled under the pressure, consenting to new elections, and this time Yushchenko emerged as the undisputed winner.

It all began with one light. Yes, let your light shine, for never know it could change the world.