



- A RESOURCE FOR ONGOING FORMATION -

Part 1: The Essence of Franciscan Spirituality

Chapter 6. Christ the Son of God, Light of the World

Cloud and light. These two images occur together in the manifestations of the Holy Spirit...In the Holy Spirit, Christ fulfils these figures. The Spirit comes upon the Virgin Mary and 'overshadows' her, so that she might conceive and give birth to Jesus. On the mountain of Transfiguration, the Spirit in the 'cloud came and overshadowed' Jesus, Moses and Elijah, Peter, James and John, and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, 'This is my Son, my Chosen: listen to him!' Finally, the cloud took Jesus out of the sight of the disciples on the day of his Ascension, and will reveal him as Son of man in glory on the day of his coming.

Catechism of the Catholic Church 697 (p 161-162)

[Concerning those who do not do penance]
See, the blind ones, deceived by your enemies: the flesh, the world, and the devil, because it is sweet for the body to sin and it is bitter to serve God, for every vice and sin flow from the human heart (Matt 7.21) as the Lord says in the Gospel.

Rule *Prologue (ii)*

In front of the altar of the friary chapel of Greccio, Italy, you can still see the large stone, with a V-like hollow on top, which Francis used as his Christmas crib, thereby popularising a devotion we still have today.



The crib and the cross were the two loves of Francis' life—the mystery of the Incarnation of the eternal God and the mystery of his giving up of that life.

Foley, Weigel, Normile *To Live as Francis Lived: a guide for Secular Franciscans* Reflection 9 (p 33)

The Redeemer of the world! In him has been revealed in a new and more wonderful way the fundamental truth concerning creation to which the book of Genesis gives witness when it repeats several times: 'God saw that it was good'. The good has its source in Wisdom and Love. In Jesus Christ the visible world which God created for man...recovers again its original link with the divine source of Wisdom and Love.

John Paul II *Redemptor Hominis* 8



Is describing Christ as the Light of the World a useful metaphor today?



What did the centurion mean by 'Truly this man was God's Son'? (Mk 15.39)

Scripture—



John 1. 4-5; 8. 12

In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.'

I John 1. 5-7

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.