Feast of St. Angela
January 27, 2019

Leader: Your word is a lamp unto my feet, a light unto my path.

(Psalm 119)

Response: **Open our hearts, minds, and bodies to the light of your word.**

Reading
John 1:1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God

And the Word was God.

In Him was life, and his life was the light of all humankind.

The Light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

Response: **Your word is a lamp unto my feet, a light to my path.**

(Psalm 119)

Reflection

Looking at too many resources when preparing thoughts for a feast day has its consequences. While the experience is very rich, one is left with the question, "Where to now?"

Maybe…maybe it was the impact of the documentary about Pope Francis *A MAN OF HIS WORD*. Etched in my heart are his words: *"When I became Pope, I wanted a poor church for the poor. Who is the poor? I say MOTHER EARTH. We have plundered her. Protecting her is our most pressing task."* Francis, throughout the documentary, continues to reveal in his words and actions the connections between the poor of this world with this plundering and speaks to his efforts to change this.

Or, maybe it was Sr. Martha Buser's book, *LOVER OF US ALL*, which in my current reading revealed an ever-greater depth to Angela's words – Angela, a woman who, like Francis, was very aware of the realities of her time and was not defined by them. She chose to lead by word and example. Rather than establishing specific ministries, her word would inform whatever her followers would do.

Or, it could have been the hope and inspiration that came from the recent book of young religious, *IN OUR OWN WORDS*: *"Hear the urgent call of the unmet needs of the world, imagine future possibility and then, in time, see glimmers of light shining on our next steps."*

However these pieces came together, a line from Psalm 119 echoed over and over again in my morning prayer, *"Your word is a lamp unto my feet, a light unto my path."* And there she was so clearly: Angela, A WOMAN OF HER WORD.

<center>*(pause for quiet reflection)*</center>

Leader: Left with a treasury of so many of Angela's words, can we hear them anew, and see the evolution of their meaning for our times? We ask ourselves:

Reader 1:   How do we, as we face the many crises of our day *"Become more attentive with great and larger hearts"*?

<center>*(pause)*</center>

Reader 2:   How, in a time of untruths, do we heed *"The counsels and inspirations which the Holy Spirit unceasingly sends into our hearts. For the Holy Spirit is the one who teaches us all Truth"*?

<center>*(pause)*</center>

Reader 3:   How, in a time of disbelief, do we *"Act, move, strive, hope, cry out to Him and believe that we will see marvelous things"*?

<center>*(pause)*</center>

Reader 4:   How, in a time of distrust, do we wholeheartedly place ourselves under Angela's tutelage and hear, *"I am more alive than I was on this earth. And now, even more, I want and am able to help you and do good in every way"*?

<center>*(pause)*</center>

<center>

Join in Singing

THY WORD

by Amy Grant

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9u_NMSH3hR8
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Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. *(2x)*

>   When I feel afraid and think I've lost my way. Still, you're there right beside me.
>   Nothing will I fear as long as You are near. Please be near me to the end.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. *(2x)*

>   I will not forget your love for me and, yet, my heart forever is wandering.
>   Jesus, be my guide and hold me to your side and I will love you to the end.
>   Nothing will I fear as long as You are near. Please be near me to the end.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. *(Repeat)*

Closing Prayer

Angela, our mother,

Be with us as we journey in these our times

We are walking into mystery.

But you promised to be always in our midst.

Walk with us now along the way of new horizons.

Help us to see more clearly our journey as one of hope and bondedness.

Pray that we may be open and perceptive in discovering the will of God for us

May we have the courage to risk the road into the future, with our eyes fixed on JESUS.

Amen.

<div align="right">(Rita Bourassa, osu)</div>

Psalms 119:105

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Raining Truth