

Light in The Shadow!

Reflection by Fr. John Tigatiga, SDS

As days grow shorter and nights grow colder, the season of Advent begins, calling us into a journey of anticipation, reflection, and hope. A journey that mirrors life itself and invites us to pause and consider the dual nature of light and darkness, both in the world around us and within ourselves.

It is a journey that takes us into our own shadows, inviting us to confront them rather than flee from them; for it is in hidden places that the most profound transformations occur. However, this journey is not always straightforward. The philosopher Søren Kierkegaard once wrote, *"Life can only be understood backwards, but it must be lived forwards."* This sentiment captures the heart of Advent's journey, a period that encourages us to look back in order to understand our present and shape our future. We are reminded that our lives are full of both shadows and light, that our past holds lessons, and that even the darkest chapters contain moments of grace. In the process, we learn to accept our imperfections and our struggles, recognizing that they too are part of our journey toward becoming a whole.



Each candle on the Advent wreath gradually brightens the space around it, echoing how moments of kindness, love, and forgiveness can illuminate even the most shadowed parts of our souls. Each step in the season of Advent is a call to bring forth the light within us, to face our own darkness, and to help others find their way. For the Salvatorians, Advent serves as a gentle reminder of our apostolic call, rooted in the vision and heart of our founder, Blessed Francis Jordan. The Salvatorian life is apostolic, and we dedicate ourselves to spreading Christ's love and His teachings to all people. This call invites us to illuminate the shadows, both spiritual and physical, in our present world.

Just as Christ's light pierces through the darkness, we too must commit ourselves to spreading that light. May we all have a fruitful and productive Advent journey toward Christmas.



Peace,

Fr. Tigatiga

Fr. John Tigatiga, SDS



Ordained in Tanzania East Africa in 2015, Fr. Tigatiga took on the role of Mission Office Director in 2019. He represents the USA community, sharing appeals for international missions. His vision is to be a mediator, a bridge that connects, and thereby brings human beings to God.