Your Light will Come
by a Sister of Life

During Thanksgiving, we were gathered around the table with a special family we are serving in our mission. As is our custom, we shared with one another what we were grateful to God for in this past year. The oldest daughter, Sarah, is six and has recently been struggling with a new fear of the dark. When it was time for Sarah to share, she pronounced boldly "I am grateful for the lights."

Sarah was confident enough to bring her little fear, without any shame, to God and knew that He would take care of her. As she thanked God for His tender attentiveness to her particular need, she made a statement of profound trust in God, who is her Father and who provides for her.

When Mary pronounced her Fiat, she did not see clearly how God's will would play out in her life. She had many reasons to fear what saying yes to God would mean. As she conceived the Light of the World in her womb, it might have seemed that her life grew darker- Joseph's misunderstanding, the long trip to Bethlehem, no room in the inn, Simeon's prophecy, Herod's attempt to kill the Child, and the flight into Egypt. Yet Mary held fast to the Word of God- the Light -who was growing in her womb, whom she knew she could trust with her will and to whom she could bring every fear of her heart. He would hear her, and the Father would respond with the Light.

This Christmas, Christ comes to us as the Light to overcome the shadows of our fears, as we stumble over our own wills. As it says in the Prologue of the Gospel of John, "The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (Jn 1:5). Little Sarah and our Blessed Mother show us how to offer to the Lord our hearts with all of our confusion, fears, desires, and needs. If we respond with gratitude even before our fear is overcome or all has become clear, we begin to glow from the inside with the peace and warmth of the Light who is Christ.

When we entrust to God all our fears, no matter how little or large, as Sarah did, we too can pray: Thank You God for the Light. Without Him, Lord, I am in darkness and I am scared. But you Father know this, and have provided the Light for me so that I may always be confident in your Love. I trust that, following your will, I may conceive the Light within me, even though all around is darkness, and like John the Baptist, bear witness to that Light. Amen.