

December 21st



**O Dawn, brightness
of eternal light and
sun of justice:
come and illumine
those sitting in
darkness and the
shadow of death!**

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O- ri-ens, *spléndor lucis aetérnae, et sol ju-
stí-ti-ae : véni, et illúmi- na sedéntes in té-nebris
et úmbra mórtis.

ORIENS means “rising” like the “rising sun”, or “the dawning of the day” when the sun drives away the darkness of the night. We say “*It dawned on me!*” meaning, “*I finally understood!*” The darkness has gone and I can see clearly in the light. Jesus is that light that helps us see clearly the dangers and darkness of this world. He says: “*I am the Light of the world ... the true Light, which enlightens every man ... He that follows Me, walks not in darkness, but shall have the light of life*” (Jn. 8:12; 1:9). Sadly, most people prefer the darkness to the light; they like sin more than virtue: “*The Light is come into the world ... He was in the world and the world knew Him not. He came unto His own, and His own received Him not ... and men loved darkness rather than the Light: for their works were evil*” (Jn. 3:19; 1:10-11). Do we let Jesus shine the light of His wisdom in our life? Do we “*see the light*”? Do we follow the light? Yet Jesus also said of us: “*YOU are the light of the world. A city seated on a mountain cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle and put it under a basket, but upon a candlestick, that it may shine to all that are in the house.*” (Mt. 5:14-15). Do not be ashamed of your religion or of being religious. Light the candle of your Faith for all to see and don’t hide it in fear or shame, or keep it to yourself. Jesus said if we deny Him on earth, He will deny us in Heaven (Mt. 10:33). The light of our Faith is meant for the whole world.