



Reflection from Ben 1/26/2020

When we left Kansas City on the 17th of January, there was the icy winter storm going through the Midwest. The icy conditions turned the usual 7.5 hour trip to Chicago into a 12- hour drive. Arriving in Chicago, there was the added uncertainty of our flight to the Philippines being delayed or cancelled because of the weather. Ever if we could take off, we faced the possibility of not being able to land in the Philippines because of the volcano eruption.

I remembered reading Pope Francis saying in *Laudato Si* that "Jesus lived in full harmony with creation." Thus, I offered to Jesus our plans and let Him who has full control, take over. With your prayers, the prayers of our families and friends, we arrived safely in the Philippines.

Maraming Salamat!

Matthew in today's Gospel depicts a troubled time but offers hope. He echoes Isaiah "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone. Amidst the conflicts of today, there is hope! There is light in darkness because we believe in Jesus the Light of the World.

The Gospel is meant to inspire us to embrace our own version of the mission – to be a light in the darkness of this world by bringing peace, welcoming others and encountering them for who they are.

Blessings, Ben

Mt 4: 12-23