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House Light

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House Light

We all know what a lighthouse is, even if we have never visited one. But, if we turn the words around, we probably have no clear and immediate picture in our minds of a house light. Some might think of an older term, such as a porch light, or some kind of illumination outside the front of a house. A house light is singular, and might well designate a different kind of radiance than that which is produced by a light bulb.

Once our imagination is free from the restriction of considering a specific physical object, we are able to consider a variety of devices that might provide light for a house, and we can also think of how a person or persons might light up a house or a home.

We are accustomed to saying that someone "lights up" the room when she or he appears. We are not speaking of material properties, but of life, graciousness, human warmth and positive energy that radiates joy. Some people can, by their attitudes and their very presence, lighten the burdens we carry, and make it easier for us to grow in self-respect and in care for others. We might even want to be such persons ourselves, once we have experienced the personal benefits of having a "house light" come into our lives.

We are not likely to think of ourselves as house lights, and even less to describe ourselves as such to anyone else. But we all can aspire to bring light and not darkness, joy rather than sadness, and peace instead of strife into the various communities to which we belong. If we can think of a person whom we admire, someone who is often a source of illumination in a group, he or she must have made many conscious decisions to speak and to act for the benefit of others. In such a way, people become house lights. No one who is authentically positive in attitude started out by seeking either a title or a reputation for their stance in life. Rather, they have chosen, and we can choose, to think and act in a manner that brings light to people's hearts.

We know that it is not easy to become persons who can bring light wherever we go. However, we can become aware of a desire within us to grow into the likeness of those who "light up" a room, a house, or any place where people gather. The source of all light is God, who enlightens our hearts by eliciting within us the very desire that God has for us – that we be filled with love. If we want to be caring people who lighten the burdens of others, we can begin and continue with the practice each day of noting consciously our experiences of God's love in our own lives. At any and all times or places we are welcome to ask for a portion of the infinite supply of love that God

desires for us. By accepting this love, we are very likely to become loving persons.

Each of us is intended from our creation to be a kind of “house light” for those around us.

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