

# MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

TO ALL OUR DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST,  
FAMILIES AND FRIENDS,

"The people living in darkness has seen a great light....", these words from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, reminds us of our need for God and His coming to us... "the Word made Flesh..", the Emmanuel, God with Us.

This year we had witnessed the greatest of tragedies, both natural and man-made. We have experienced, heard and seen the negative effect it has brought to humankind. People across the globe has something or someone to mourn and grieved for. Tears and wails of helplessness and fear cloud our world. And oftentimes people ask, "Where is God in all these?"

Yes, where is God in all these? A question that echoes our hopelessness. We are the people living in darkness, yet there is a promise for us... a Great Light! In this hopelessness, God is right here, ever nearer to us. God is more present than ever in our world. Things, bad things as we see them happened and still happening because of the consequences of our wrong decisions and actions, and yet God is here trying to lead us to straighten things out, if only we will believe and trust again. He is the Great Light... coming to us... already in our midst, our Emmanuel!

People of today think we have grown wiser and depended so much on our intelligence to govern the world. But the truth is as we become wiser in the matters of the world, we have become ignorant of God. We can never be wiser than God. Still God is the one who can bring solutions to the present chaos we have created, order to the mess that we have become. So let us again turn to God in faith and love. Let us be like the people of Nineveh, who have believed and repented and turn things around because they saw the Truth!

May this Christmas inspire us to open ourselves to God in complete surrender and make Him again the center of our lives. As St. Paul said: "in Him let us breathe and move and have our being". "Unto us a Child was born...", and this Child is called the Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counselor, our Mighty God!

Our Christmas Prayer for all :

*Almighty God, pour out on us your merciful and compassionate love. Bring good health, peace and joy to all our families and may all our actions be blessed by your great wisdom so that we may unwaveringly follow your will. May we always bring out the best in everyone and in this world. Guide us always so that our actions will always reflect your Goodness and our speech utter only of Peace. This we ask through Christ our Lord. Amen*

Our communities of prayer in Hong Kong and Palawan would also want to express our gratitude for your continuous support to us. We assure you as always of our prayers and love. May the Lord reward you all with hundredfold blessings, overflowing to the brim.

Thank you and God reward you all!

