

My Brothers and Sisters:

Sorrow and hope. These are the feelings that characterize these days leading to Christmas 2021 amidst the pandemic. The year that is coming to an end has been marked by suffering but also by the commitment of so many people to help those who are suffering.

I think the problems and the sufferings of this year will even help us focus on the message of hope and Christmas. What is it? It is God who comes to us. We will never be alone. Emmanuel: God with us. And other things that are with us will disappear: the investments, the achievements, the gifts, our money... will all disappear. All these things that we have associated with Christmas may disappear. But Jesus who comes as one of us, God with us, will remain with us forever. So that is our hope.

I wish that our Parish community will have the strength, the hope, the faith and the joy to make the new year brighter. We cannot wait for outside factors to change. Maybe they will not change. But we can change our outlook and that will make the new year brighter: our hope, our solidarity, our joy.

May you, like the Holy Family listened to an angel message and be open to God's guidance so that you may experience the love of Christmas, share it to our family and friends, by word and deed.

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