



Christmas Message 2017

« I bring you good news... »

It seems very sad this night when Christ is born in a manger of animals. For several days, families have left their homes so that everyone, according to the order of the Emperor Augustus, be registered in his hometown. No wonder then, that all the places of accommodation were filled up, that Marie and Joseph have found only a shelter for the animals to spend the night! The sadness of this night, is also that of these families of whose members are excluded from the company because, they are blind, lame, leprosy, deaf ... The sadness of this night, is finally that of a people who are for long time suffered the weight of the Roman occupation.

It is in the heart of this night, that the angel of the Lord announced to the shepherds: "I bring you good news ..." (Luke 2:10). This good news is the birth of the Savior who, already, is light in the heart of darkness (see Luke 2, 9). With him, the blind will see, the lame will walk, the lepers will be cleansed, the deaf will hear, the dead will be resurrected, the poor will receive the Good News ... (Luke 7:22).

In today's world, with its rapid information and its often tragic nature can lead us to believe that, humanity is definitely plunged into darkness. We the disciples of Christ, should not let ourselves be won by pessimism and despair. May this Christmas celebration remind us that, we are all invited to "announce this good news"! Let us go to our families and our Christian communities, and announce this good news! Let's take time to appreciate what each one of us is! Let's take time to appreciate what everyone is able to give daily! Let's take time to celebrate the many commitments that aim to humanize the world!

May this Christmas feast encourage us to share this good news! Not because we would like to ignore the difficulties of the present time, but because we believe that Christmas is "the light shining in darkness, and the darkness cannot stop it" (John 1, 5).

To each and every one of you, to your families and Christian communities, I wish you a merry Christmas!

+ Pascal Delannoy
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