

2020 Christmas Letter to the Parishioners of Holy Trinity and St. Michael

Dear friends,

Merry Christmas from Vatican City! I send my warmest greetings to you and your families as we celebrate the birth of the Christ-child. This semester of studies has been challenging, but I am deeply consoled by your prayers.

This year has been difficult for many of us. Some of us have experienced sickness, and all of us have experienced the heart-wrenching violence and division of our society. Some have lost loved ones, and all of us have suffered the turbulent experience of having our normal lives interrupted by Covid-19.

Many people have given up on faith in God because they think the evil in world is impossible to fight. Many have decided that they will place their hopes in the finite goods of science, technology, health, economy, pleasure, and politics rather than in Almighty God.

The Church offers us a different view. In all of these challenging moments, St. Paul says, how much more is the experience of grace offered to us in Christ Jesus (*Rm 5*). God is always with us, and he gives deep meaning to the suffering we experience. Living with faith in God makes life infinitely more beautiful.

The celebration of the Incarnation, where God became man, has indeed changed everything for all time: that was, that is, and that will be. Christmas is a cosmic feast because Christ began his redemption of the whole universe, including you and me, by becoming a little baby; all for love.

The experience of Christmas this year, in all its silence, might actually be more like the first Christmas than ever before in our lives. I see it as a great invitation to a time of silence and prayer to grow in knowledge and love of God.

Our faith helps us realize the greatest gift of all: that we have a God who loves us, who wants to be with us, and who wants to save us from our fear and darkness.

I assure you of my daily prayers for you here in Rome. May the love of God deeply console you this holy season. I remain

Yours in Christ,

Zachary Galante



Merry
Christmas