



☉ come, let us adore Him,
Christ, the Lord

[I renew this message as a personal greeting]

My Christmas Message

I have been writing a personal Christmas message for many years now. I have to recognize that the message at its core remains the same. Like every writer of words, I struggle to find how I should write the message. I want it always to be a message of faith, of hope, of joy and of love.

To receive and understand the message of Christmas means to use one's faith and use it well. I think of how many theologians have related the message in profound ways. I have read the third part of Pope Benedict's writing on Jesus of Nazareth. He details most of the theology of the Infancy Narratives. I know that faith reveals to us the events found in the Gospels and related by Tradition over the centuries,

We learn how the birth of Jesus was the work of God. The Father sent His Only-begotten Son to be the Savior. The Son of God set aside His high estate and humbled Himself and became man. The Holy Spirit fulfilled the words of Gabriel to Mary and comes upon her with the power of the Most High. A reality is given to the message that fulfills so many prophecies. Jesus is born. God is with us.

When we meditate upon the events recorded in the Gospels we find reason for our hope. We come to know the Babe of Bethlehem as "Omnipotence in swaddling clothes," as Bishop Sheen often described Him. We hope with great joy, for the birth of Jesus brings such joy. Just as it did to the shepherds and the wise men, so it does for us.

Yet faith and hope and joy are not enough to describe what Christmas means. We must discover more. It means love. We know of Mary's love for Jesus beyond all telling. But it means love for us, too, the love of Jesus for each of us. It is that love which we must share with one another to make the Christmas message come alive in our hearts.

In wishing you a blessed Christmas I want to ask you to join with me in prayer that we will find in the Babe of Bethlehem what is always found in faith. Let us find hope; let us rejoice; and let us extend the boundaries of our love. In our doing this we will know the true meaning of Christmas, the story of how God became man, the God Who is Love.

As I write this message I send my thanks to all who have encouraged me to share my thoughts over all these years. I cannot celebrate Christmas without reflecting on the past which is filled with memories of so many wonderful friends. I see the faith, hope, joy and love in so many in the present. I have to believe that the future cannot be other than bright, where the world I know now disappears to become the invisible world of the Spirit. It is with such thoughts that I shall offer my Christmas Mass and pray for God's blessings. Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!

*God love and bless you always!
Monsignor David Morrison*

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