



Apostolic Nunciature in Kuwait, Yemen, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates
Apostolic Delegation to the Arabian Peninsula

Message of H.E. Archbishop Francisco Montecillo Padilla, Apostolic Nuncio in Kuwait, Bahrein, UAE, Qatar, Yemen and Apostolic Delegate to the Arabian Peninsula on the occasion of the joyful feast of Christmas 2018.

A SAVIOUR HAS BEEN BORN FOR HUMANITY

Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you: He is Christ the Lord (Lk.2:11). This is the news of great joy that we all are called to share with all humanity. This is what Christmas is all about, the birth of Christ, our Saviour and Lord.

The world today is afflicted with so many problems and difficulties. Humanity seems to be overwhelmed and shaken by so much violence, wars, hatred, rejection, greed and lack of respect for the dignity of the person. The Church is being attacked today by the devil (Pope Francis Mass in Santa Marta, 11 September 2018). In the midst of this confusion, selfishness and destruction that affect the lives of so many people, especially the poor and helpless, many ask the question: Who can save us? Will there be a Saviour to help us overcome this burden?

Today, our Lord is born in our midst. He knows our pains and sorrows. He knows our sicknesses and our struggles. He will carry our infirmities in His body (Mt. 8:17). He has come to bring us peace by reconciling humanity with God and with each other. He therefore has come to save us. He is our Saviour. Let us all rejoice, throw away all our anxieties and put our hope in Him.

In this coming of the Lord Jesus, our Saviour, we rejoice in faith, hope and love. He has come not just to save us but make us also saviours to our brothers and sisters. When we bring the message of joy and peace to them not just by our words but by our lives, we can make a positive impact to all our brethren who are suffering. For we bring them hope and peace. But we can only do this if we ourselves are people of joy and peace, if we live a life of goodwill and peace brought by the Infant Jesus in a manger.

So this Christmas is a celebration to inspire us to be like Christ, our Saviour who has come to all of us. This we can do by reconciling with those who have sinned against us, by forgiving, by sharing our gifts to those who are less fortunate, rejected and abandoned who are without the good things of this earth because they have lost homes, family or loved ones, by comforting the sick, the oppressed and the depressed.

Let us share to all the joy and hope of Christ in us by reaching out to each one of them during this period of Christmas. Let us help especially those who live in darkness, still trying to seek the hope in their hearts. They have not yet seen the Saviour. Let us help them to find Jesus during this joyful season so that they know that Christ is truly our Lord and Saviour, the Prince of Peace, who has come to live among us now and always!

May you and your loved ones have a blessed and Holy Christmas!

+ *Francisco M. Padilla*

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