

# MERRY CHRISTMAS



"Let us all rejoice in the Lord, for our Saviour has been born in the world. "

Psalm 2:7

## Christmas 2012

### Message from the Pastor

My dear Parishioners,

Let this CHRISTMAS be a day of stocktaking. Let us turn within, recognize our weaknesses and try to overcome them. Let us sink down all differences and sit together in all loving devotion for the Master. Let us purge our souls and cleanse our hearts, for unless we are pure, we cannot see the Kingdom of God, much less enter into it.

If you can love your God with all your heart, with all your strength and with all your soul and love your neighbors as yourselves; if you can forget your prejudices and differences, your hatreds and petty jealousies; if you can love even your enemies as Jesus did, who died uncomplaining on the Cross, then all things shall be added unto you and you will achieve spiritual peace here and hereafter.

The love of the Master for you is boundless. The path is difficult, but He is always with you to guide you. Live by what He says, turn within and do daily meditation, and as sure as the sun rises every day, you shall become the seers and the hearers of the Word.

It is a commentary on our situation in life that the biggest problem most of us has with our Christmas shopping, aside from finding time to do it, is that most of the people we shop for already have everything they need. This year I'm fresh out of ideas.

Are we people who have everything or we who need everything? What do we really need this Christmas?

- We need simplicity, time for sorting out our lives, time for being together, time for getting to know one another, and time for sharing ourselves at the deepest levels of human communication.
- We need holy time, a sense of life's deeper dimensions, of eternal mysteries breaking in upon finite existence, of the God of righteousness whose being conveys meaning to all of life's actions and relationships, and the blessing of a world that wants to bless us if we'll only let it.
- We need space for seeing life as it is, for seeing the millions of people in the world who are starving to death and the millions who are dying of simple diseases, for realizing how shallow life is when it is lived merely for the pleasure of the moment without any regard to the future or its consequences, for standing back and looking at our own lives, so that, we will have a chance to mend our ways, to become wholesome, to become worthy, and to become children of God.
- We need the Christ of Christmas and renewal of our inner spirits. That is what it all comes down to, isn't it? We need to hear and receive the message of Christmas, that God has entered the human arena to dwell with us, that His presence is consequently here and available to us now, that we are not alone, spinning out our destinies . . . , and that all our days are spent before the Holy One of Israel who poured all that He was and is and will be through the funnel of a miracle into the child born in the manger of Bethlehem. We need to surrender our lives to Christ, who is the real Gift of Christmas, and in the end He so overshadows all others as to be the only one.

In a sense, I am talking about all of us.

That is the way it ought to be for us at Christmas. Most of us have been lost in the busy-

ness of our existence, trying to cope from day to day, and have quite forgotten who we are or whose we are... And then we, who thought we had everything, realize we have nothing, and, realizing we have nothing, stand ready to receive everything. For He is our joy and peace.

Another year of our precious life has gone, bringing us closer to the great final change, called death. Those who have learnt to rise above body-consciousness at will, have won victory over death. Last enemy that we have to conquer is death. Blessed are they who have attained this competency at the feet of the Master Jesus - for they lose all fear of death—for them life and death make no difference—for they die daily and traverse into the higher planes. Physical Science has produced weapons to move in the space around the world as also to reach moon. These inventions seemed miraculous in the past. But it has now become a solid fact. Similarly our Divine Master who came, knew as to how to rise above body-consciousness and traversed into the higher planes. 'Unless you are born anew, you cannot enter the Kingdom of God'. 'Learn to die so that you may begin to live'. I wish that you be rooted on your belief solidly. Let not others' wayward opinions deflect you from the True Path you are on. Let not promises of glory by anyone waylay you. Do not come to hurried conclusions, but use discrimination in all your undertakings. Stick to what is Real. With an ethical and loving background your spiritual success is definitely assured. My love and best wishes are always with you in all your noble efforts and holy journey to your home.

### Fr. Rudy

Prayer: In all the frenzy and noise of the season of Christmas, O God, help us to find our way home; and, having found it, let us never lose it. Through Christ, who was born to show us the way. Amen.

Some Christmas Questions for you...

- Have you ever thanked God for your life?
- Do you really become aware of God's innumerable blessings in your life?
- Do you take it for granted all the comforts that come in your life?
- Can you at times open your eyes to the worst miseries of life in this world? War, earthquakes, floods, violence, killings, poverty?
- Do you become sad because others are better than you?
- Are you really concerned with your spiritual growth, which happens when you are grateful to God?
- Are you happy where you are? If not, why? Find out the reasons behind your unhappiness
- Begin to be grateful for your mind, feet, hands, eyes, health etc. There are more than 500 millions who do not have all these bodily organs for a comfortable life.
- There are another 500 millions of people who live in very poor conditions and are happier than you, why?
- Pray and find out the basic dissatisfaction you experience; allow the spirit of God to touch your dissatisfaction and begin to be grateful to Him.
- Make a deep meditation on rag pickers who struggle to live yet at times they are happy because they get something to fill their hungry stomachs.

**Wish you all the blessings for the New Year! ☐☐**

P.S.

Thank you for all the gifts, cards and Christmas wishes that me and my staff, including Fr. Boniface, have received from those who sent them. Thank you also to all the volunteers who, in any way—big or small - helped in our preparations for this Christmas celebration.

In thanksgiving and gratitude, let me invite all the volunteers to a Volunteers' Christmas Party on Saturday, January 5, 2013 at 5:30 pm in the Millennium Parish Hall.

God bless you,

Fr. Rudy

## Happy New Year



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