



Christ is born! Glorify Him!

There are years when the Christmas message is easier to hear, and years when it is harder. When there is peace in the world, and general good-cheer, the message feels natural, even welcome. We find ourselves eager to rejoice. But when that peace is wanting, when instead we are confronted more readily the suffering of our fellow-man, the joy of the Nativity feels almost foreign.

But in such circumstances it is all the more important that we receive whole-heartedly the evangelical proclamation of Christ's birth. In generations before us, in times of persecution, conflict and turmoil, the saints accepted the joy of this Feast, because they knew that from it comes the only means of resolving the conflicts that brought about their suffering: the birth of God and His presence in the world. As the inheritors of their example, we must not let despair overtake us, and must make ready our hearts for this same proclamation; because in our day, as in theirs, it remains only God Who is the means of the world's redemption.

Christ Whose birth we celebrate today is the One who can, and will, bring peace to this troubled world. Let us work always for the peace that comes from God, and let us together welcome the King of Peace, striving always to follow His example.

Conveying to you every blessing from the Newborn Lord,

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Archbishop of San Francisco and Western America

The Nativity According to the Flesh of our Lord, God and Saviour, Jesus Christ
25 December 2022 / 7 January 2023