

My Christmas Letter

Dear Friends,

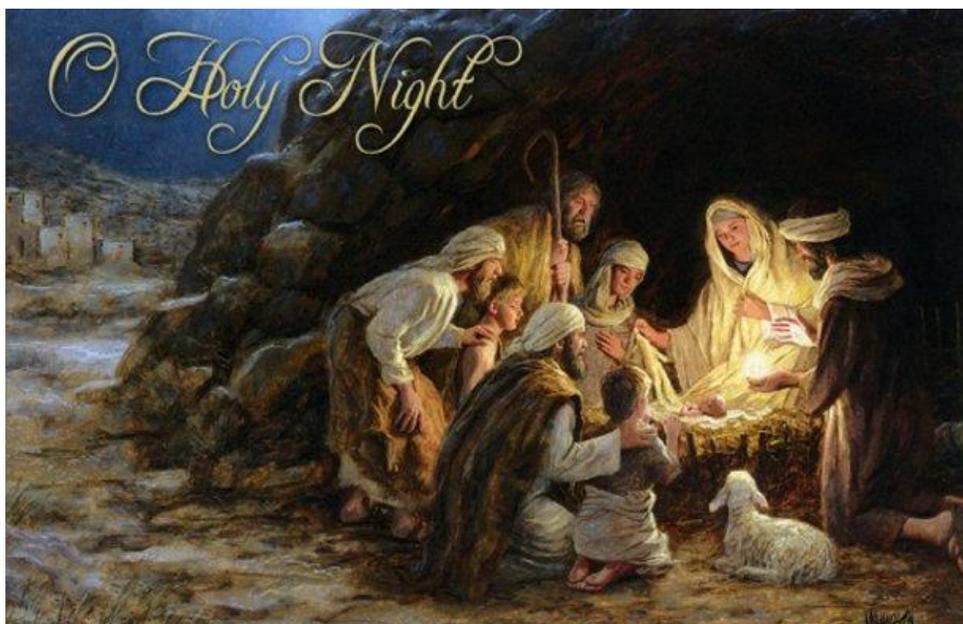
It has been a long time since I began a spiritual journey with you. It has been a journey of writing these inserts for our parish bulletin. In them I have invited you to live the Spirit. It is a life that calls for so much of all of us. We must use the graces given to be strong in faith, filled with hope and desirous of love.

Christmas has always been for me a special time. I have lived a long time and have experienced so many beautiful customs. My journey has been made with an awareness that I have not been alone. Yes, I have been blessed to walk with you. I rejoice in your knowing that God is with us. The gift of Christmas is ours every day. We are made by its meaning into children of the Father, brothers and sisters of a loving Savior and friends of the Holy Spirit. Christmas is for us forever.

Now we journey in life to another Christmas, no doubt a difficult one. Yet in it we will find that Jesus is given to us, as the true Emmanuel. There is every reason for us to see this is the true gift. During this Christmas season I shall, as usual, offer Masses for all of you. May you take time to come to a Mass if you can do so safely. Pray to Mary, our Mother, and to St. Joseph, our protector.

Let us answer the plea of the Christmas hymn: *Come, let us adore Christ the Lord.*
Let us give glory to God in the highest, and seek peace on earth for all of good will.
May you have a holy and joyful Christmas! May you have a Happy New Year!

Monsignor David Morrison



Christmas Message 2020

As I write this in November, I am very aware of the impact of the Corona Virus has had on all of our lives. It also affects our celebrations of our holidays and holy days. However, my message is that we must still have the goal of living the Spirit as best we can.

Often, I have written: Life is for us a journey from God to God. During Advent we journey through time to Christmas. The time is filled with calls to us to prepare to celebrate with our many customs and traditions. So many family customs are rooted firmly in our spiritual faith. While this year it may be a difficult challenge to celebrate, how good it will be to find some way to live the Spirit of Christmas.

Our Advent preparation has given us a reflection on our faith, our hope, and our charity. It also calls us to know how to react with joy to the messages we hear in our liturgy. "*Rejoice,*" we are told. And we are told again, "*Rejoice.*"

All of these ways of life are essential to our spiritual life. The life that we live is with the Spirit's gifts of understanding and the wisdom it engenders. Let us not allow a virus to diminish our faith, our hope or our joy. These spiritual gifts will let us become able to be persons of the life which makes us so much like God, Who is Love.

We shall find Jesus, God's Son come to us. We have only to open our hearts to let Him do so. Our prayers to Mary and Joseph will give us the strength of spirit, of soul, to embrace the gifts that the Spirit gives us at Christmas.

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In the time of the first Christmas, journeys were very difficult. As we read the account of Christmas, we find the angel Gabriel coming down to Mary with his message that the time had come for the Messiah to be born. We hear of the angel coming to Zechariah, telling him a child would be born. Mary listened and gave her consent. Zechariah did not believe. Then the journey ordered by Caesar brought Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem, where Jesus was born. To be God with us a journey was necessary.

Spiritual gifts given had to be accepted and activated. So, it is with us. Our Christmas can be a time, especially in these days of the pandemic, to accept the ultimate gift given us. Jesus is Emmanuel. He gives us Himself. Let your journey to Christmas be a joyful one. Let your heart be open to the love God wants to give you. Then share that love with your loved ones. Your priests will be doing the same sharing.

*May you find the peace of Christmas!
God love you always!
Monsignor Morrison*

