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*“If we are humble and simple like the child Jesus, He will surely bless us and our humble and simple Congregation.”* Bishop Ferrando

My dear Sisters,

Christmas is near and we are already sending Christmas greetings to friends and our dear ones. As we enter into the spirit of Christmas with joy, let us take a few moments to reflect on the birth of Jesus in a stable. The humility of God in the incarnation captures our attention when we think of the time and the place he chose to be born. How could He stoop so low to be the servant of all? As we prepare to celebrate this event, what is our focus? Is the baby Jesus the center of our celebration? This feast will become meaningful if we truly celebrate Christ and His love for us at Christmas.

As the thought of Christmas fills our hearts with joy, let us make every effort to experience true joy in our communities. The exchange of cakes and gifts has a great meaning, when our relationship is renewed with one another in the community. May the wish and prayer of St. Paul come alive among us: “I pray that your love for each other will overflow more and more and that you will keep on growing in your knowledge and understanding” (*Phil. 1:9*). Christmas is one of the most wonderful times of the year and one of the happiest seasons of all. May it be an occasion for us to transmit Christ’s love to others.

The celebration of Christmas should lead us to experience the presence of the Child Jesus and may it guide us to draw his qualities to our personal life. He is God himself, Prince of peace, a warrior and defender of his people, always devoted to His people. His reign is characterized by perfect beatitude, justice, joy and harmony. It is a feast of sharing; God our Father shared his only Son with humanity. We see in the Gospel that Mary, in spite of the fact that she was with child, goes out of her way to help her cousin Elizabeth, so too, God calls us to share ourselves with others. We are called to re-enact the miracle of sharing of the first Christmas just as Father shared his own son with us and dispelled our gloom, sin and suffering. We too are called to do the same to reach out to many and to be the source of joy and comfort to those in need. May the baby Jesus give us the grace to be channels of love, peace and joy to all, especially with whom we live and work.

Let us reflect on the powerful words of St. Paul to the Philippians:

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,  
who though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,  
but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave,  
Being born in human likeness, and being found in human form,  
he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death –  
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name  
that is above every name so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father”(Phil.2:5-11).

As we await the New Year 2017, let us allow Jesus to take possession of our lives and our actions that we may enter into this New Year with much hope and enthusiasm. It also offers us an opportunity to pause, to see where we have been, to notice how far we have come, and to ponder how our journey has been. As we look back, we identify the blessings of God which enlivened us and enriched us. Let us be grateful to God and continue our journey with Him.

My best wishes to each of you dear Sisters: “May our Christmas be filled with grace and happy memories! May the dawn of the New Year fill our lives with hope.” Assure you of my continuous prayers for you and the mission. May baby Jesus bless us with graces and gifts to enter into the New Year 2017.

Yours affectionately,



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