



The
Josephites

Society of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart

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CHRISTMAS 2020

My Dear Friends in Christ,

I greet you this Christmas with a heart full of gratitude and thanksgiving. This has been a year of significant difficulties and multiple challenges and trials such as we hope not to experience again in our lifetime.

This Christmas, however, reminds us that the coming of Christ into the world is the Father's gift to us, for it is in Christ that we experience the fullness of life and love. We acknowledge this gift when we follow him and attempt to live his example of love, no matter how difficult it may be at times. In doing so, we discover how rich and fulfilling our lives can be, even in the midst of seemingly insurmountable trials and difficulties as we experience this pandemic.

We can take comfort in the great wisdom and insight of St. Therese of Lisieux who had her own share of trials and lived only a short 24 years. She wrote: "Everything is grace; everything is the direct effect of our Father's love. Everything is grace because everything is God's gift. Whatever be the character of life or its unexpected events – to the heart that loves, all is well." In love we serve, and in love we encounter Christ and bring Him more closely into the lives of those we love.

May you have a loving Christmas and an abundance of great joy and blessings in the New Year.

Yours in St. Joseph,

+John Ricard, SSJ