

*“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us” (Jn. 1:14)*



Dear Sisters,

Christmas is the celebration of the sweet memory of God's immense love for us, expressed through His Incarnate Word. Jesus Christ is our key point of reference, the foundation of our lives, the light that brightens our path and the source of an everlasting hope. His birth, is the beginning of a new era, which opened up a prospect of salvation for every human being.

In today's world, filled with fear and challenges, disrupted by the selfishness that can isolate us, we are reminded of the transformative truth: *“A child is born to us, a son is given to us”* (Is 9:5). He is Jesus, Emmanuel - God with us. He is love personified. He does not come to magically fix all human disfunction, but to dwell among us, giving us the strength to believe that new life is possible for those who trust in God. Inspired by Pope Francis, let's turn to the *“living and true God”* (1 Thess 1:9), the God, who revolutionizes human history by becoming part of it. The God who so respects us, as to allow us even to reject him; who cleanses us of our sin by taking it upon himself; who does not eliminate pain but transforms it; who does not remove problems from our lives but grants us a hope that is greater than all the despair that is there in the world.

Such remarkable love invites us to wake up from our slumber and get on to doing the works of love. Scripture teaches us that love is a commitment and a conscious choice, as beautifully illustrated in the life of Mary. The Christmas story begins with her acceptance of God's design. Like all of us, Mary faced uncertainty about what lay ahead. Yet, at the Annunciation, she chose to embrace God's love and let it work through her. Her unwavering faith stemmed from her trust in God, believing that great things could unfold if she simply said yes. Her bountiful love played a crucial role in the salvific plan of God.

This Christmas, let us follow Mary's example by accepting life's opportunities with profound love and an open heart, saying, *“Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord, let it be done to me according to your word.”* Like Mary, let us humbly surrender our lives to God's Will, so as to allow his love to stream through us into our communities and the world around us.

I conclude by wishing you a **JOYOUS CHRISTMAS** and pray that the Year 2025, during which we will be holding our XVIII General Chapter, bring us **JOY, PEACE AND HOPE OF SALVATION**.

Yours sincerely,

*Sr. Selin Karikkattil*  
Superior General

Rome, 24 December 2024