Christmas 2021

Dear Family:

Merry Christmas! Yes, we can and must proclaim to the whole world that this day evokes in hearts a deep joy, not fleeting or vain, but the joy of knowing that God has become man, he has been born as a little baby in the bosom of a family, of the Holy Family.

This Christmas must question us about the true meaning of the Incarnation and why the angels told the shepherds that they were announcing a great joy that would be for all peoples. The joy they announced is that God has fulfilled His promise and has sent us the Savior and Redeemer of the world through the virginal maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary and under the custody of the virginal paternity of Saint Joseph.

Someone told me these days that this Christmas would once again be surrounded by uncertainties and anguish, suffering and fear. I think we cannot forget the story of the first Christmas; also Saint Joseph and the Blessed Virgin Mary were preparing for the greatest event in history, living amidst tribulations, uncertainties and rejections from so many. However, although our historical reality surrounds us with human vicissitudes, we cannot stop proclaiming that Christmas is a cause of joy, because God himself has wanted to become man to embrace all these vicissitudes, suffer them, redeem them and assume them as man, immersing them in his divinity. Everything that happens in human life was redeemed by the Redeemer of humanity. What good news! Christmas is not about triumphalism, fantasies or ignoring the pain that surrounds us. No, on the contrary, Christmas places us in the reality that surrounds us and that like Him, we must not flee, but give the best of ourselves, give ourselves generously to alleviate human pain.

We say, "Merry Christmas!" not because we are all experiencing happy situations. No, on the contrary, humanity is going through a crisis at all levels, but joy comes from knowing that God has entered human history and we are in His hands. History is not lacking direction because the Child Jesus came to write a new and definitive chapter: evil is conquered by the good. In pain and uncertainties, we are not left abandoned, without direction, while we walk through the deserts of life. We are cared for by Jesus, who did not exempt himself from human suffering, but touched, healed, lived them from his deepest interiority, from the manger in Bethlehem to the Cross of Calvary.

Merry Christmas, because God has loved us so much that he has sent his only begotten Son to give us the Redemption and Salvation that we need so much. Today we must allow ourselves to be questioned, what does the Child Jesus want to say to our historical moment? How we are challenged to know that so many do not believe in Him, that they ignore this miraculous day and even want to erase it from history, as if that were possible! At the foot of the manger may we hear the voice of the Child Jesus tell us: I have come into the world to reveal to you the love of the Father, and to invite you to return to his Heart. I have come to assume all human reality, except sin, to free you from it. I have come to dwell among you, and I will never leave you. Therefore, the mystery of Christmas, which will pass through Calvary, culminates with the mystery of the Eucharist.

Today may we contemplate with tenderness the Child Jesus, who together with his Mother, have given a unison Fiat for our salvation. And may Saint Joseph, who prepared with so much love and care the best possible manger for the Child, prepare our hearts with the best that we can offer, so that Jesus can rest in us. Let us pray today that His coming may not be wasted or ignored, but that there may be a deep illumination of consciences so that the fruit of this Christmas may be true conversion. May the Child Jesus speak to us and ask us the questions we need to hear and answer.

In the love of the Holy Family, Mother Adela, SCTJM Foundress

