

The Light of Christ

Roman Flores, Catechetical Coordinator

My heart is full of gratitude to God for all the blessings he has bestowed upon me and the parish communities we serve. As we had recently celebrated the Feast Day of our Lady of Guadalupe here in the Pastoral Center with *mañanitas*, my thoughts turn to our love and dedication to the Blessed Virgin Mary who is our most powerful advocate and guide. She leads us to Jesus and in turn comes to the aid of her sons and daughters as well. As we also just celebrated the birth of her son on the 25th of December it was truly a joyous day in which we joined Christians all over the world in welcoming into our hearts the King and Ruler of all creation born of the Blessed Virgin Mary. I hope this Christmas found you and your family in good health and grace with our Lord's blessings.

While we are the beneficiaries of great blessings and favors from God, we must also recognize that it is our duty to return that love to our brothers and sisters in need. A parish is not only a physical place or a building; a parish is a human community, a portion of the People of God, a house built on mutual trust, kindness, and love for one another. We require buildings in which to pray, and study, and gather, but the reason for a parish to construct and maintain buildings is to provide a home for the community of the faithful, the Christian Catholic family, which is the universal church.

As we just celebrated the Nativity of our Lord Jesus let us give ourselves the opportunity to return to the true spirit and joy of this blessed season once again, to renew our commitment to our Lord and the service to His people and one another. One of the greatest sins today of our modern culture is the sin of complacency and indifference. Many are satisfied with stripping this holy season of Jesus Christ; we must fight that temptation and bring Christ to the center of our celebrations and especially our homes and communities. We must be witnesses of our Lord Jesus, reminding all our neighbors and friends to the great birthday celebration of our Lord Jesus Christ. We must make it a season of faith and charity, announcing to the world the great love and mercy of God. Only then can we rediscover the true spirit of Christmas. As we continue to gather with our families and friends, allow the light of Christ to be a light in your hearts and souls so that rediscovering your faith, renewing your commitment to Him, and reliving the mysteries we celebrated, you will truly have a Blessed remaining holiday season and new year.

(John 8:12) Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the

light of life.” (Mathew 5:16) Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.

My brothers and sisters in Christ may the Infant Child Jesus and his most Blessed Mother continue to grant you joy and peace and keep you and your loved ones safe. May our Heavenly Father bless you and your communities.