CHRISTMAS 2021

Merry Christmas to you and to your family! Christmas brings a message of hope that calms our troubled world of gloom all around us. We are living in changing times not necessarily for the better but to a great extent for the worse, times that are troubled and unsettling. Wars are being waged in the world. People in great numbers are having to flee from their homes to escape the fighting and are becoming refugees. People in many places have had to send their sons and daughters off to fight the battles. Cities on the home front have been attacked by terrorists and are being threatened. To top it all, the pandemic of *corona virus* has claimed millions of lives and still continues to affect our lives and the recent tornadoes that devastated our neighborhood in the mid-west. Economically times are hard and even getting worse for many families. In contrast to the world of gloom the message of Christmas offers us hope for a brighter future, peace on earth and hearts with joy and love. Jesus came to seek and save the sinner, to heal the broken-hearted, to destroy demonic works and to establish his kingdom of peace and joy on earth where hostility, turbulence and division rule.

Christmas is about giving, not grabbing. We can give without loving but we cannot love without giving. Amid fun and frolic and short-lived celebrations many could forget the real purpose of Christmas and of God's love towards the deprived and oppressed. The message of Christmas is that we will always be filled with hope and love, light and life, joy and peace.

I would like to invite your love and generosity during this Christmas season in support of the poor, needy and marginalized in the La Salette missions where we serve. We will be able to provide you with tax exempt letter for your donations which will make a difference in the lives of so many, especially children who are less fortunate. You and your family will be remembered in our masses at the La Salette Chapel during this holy season.

Fr. Thomas Vellappallil, M.S.