

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR...



Dear family of Santa Catalina,

It's Christmas! The year practically comes to an end with Good News: "Today in the city of David, a Savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord" (Lk 2,11). In this year 2017, we have heard many bad news. Perhaps for many of you this year has also been, in some way, a difficult year. Christmas comes once again to remind us all that there is always a reason for hope and joy. When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, God became the Emmanuel, God-with-us. He is very close to us. He is like us in all things except sin, and He accompanies us on the path of life. We are never alone. The Emmanuel is truly with us wherever we are, whether in joy or in affliction, prosperity or adversity, health or illness, life or death ... The birth of Jesus marks a before and after in the history of humanity. Similarly, when He enters our lives, our personal history is transformed. To those who believe in the Emmanuel, there is always hope of a new beginning.

This Christmas, let's turn our hearts into a manger where we can accommodate the Emmanuel. Where He is, there is peace, joy, hope, grace and salvation. Let us contemplate with new eyes the mystery of Bethlehem. The child wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger and surrounded by Joseph and Mary in the most total poverty, reminds us that the essential in this life is love and only love. Let's fill ourselves with the love that God offers us in his Son and let us take it to others, especially to the neediest. Celebrating Christmas is to share love.

For us, this Christmas brings us an additional reason for joy and hope. Next year, our Parish will celebrate the 50th anniversary of its foundation. Half a century of committed service, unconditional generosity and proven fidelity in the most difficult adversities, to bear witness in this portion of the Lord's vineyard that God is indeed the Emmanuel. Thank you for being part of this wonderful history.

May the Emmanuel bless you abundantly this Christmas and always!
Merry Christmas!

With my affection and blessing,

P. Rolando