



World Council of the Marianist Family

CHRISTMAS 2018

A Message to our Sisters and Brothers

*"...in one quiet moment, a woman and man
accepted the part they would have in God's plan..."*

Glory to God, for Salvation is near!"

From One Quiet Moment by Glad

Dear sisters and brothers,

As we contemplate, once again, the great mystery of the Incarnation, we not only recall the immense love of God, shown to us at one quiet moment a long time ago, but we also cannot help but bear in mind that, in so many ways, this love is still unknown or unrequited in our present time – a time whose moments are anything but quiet. Yet, deeper into the contemplation, we see that the world in which Jesus was born, had its own difficulties, many of which still plague us today.

Could those who closed their doors to the Holy Family have imagined that they were, in fact, refusing to welcome their God? This Holy Family was poor; they simply wished to be faithful. Yet, they would be pursued by those who sought power and dominance; violence and intolerance would surround them; the child would be rejected and, later, even killed. Yes, their hearts would be broken, but their faith would not be shaken. They would nurture their child, teach him, and tenderly hold the hand which had fashioned the stars. They were a family, a Holy Family, a family which began through the power of the Holy Spirit, broke bread with the one who was the Bread of Life and were the first church bringing Glory to God the Father in Heaven!

As a Marianist Family, we find much to inspire us in this Holy Family. Like Mary, we try to be receptive to the Spirit working in our lives and live the Charism that is the particular mark on our Marianist Family, which we have inherited from our blessed Founders. Like St. Joseph, we stay confident and trust in God to guide, protect and enrich our Family. Like Mary and Joseph, we marvel at Jesus, their son, knowing that the fulness of God's love is present and manifest in him.

In a world that presents us each day with painful and tragic reality, we look to the Holy Family and find strength in their example of mutual love, self-giving faithfulness, and unending trust. At this blessed Christmas time, let us, members of the Marianist Family, re-dedicate ourselves to our charismatic mission of bringing Christ into the world, by being a "church" which models the virtues of the Holy Family and gives witness to the world that God never abandons us, but rather remains faithful through all trials.

Let us accept the part we have in God's plan, giving "glory to God, for our salvation is near!"

May the blessings of the Incarnation be yours this Christmas and throughout the New Year!

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