

*Merry Christmas to one and all!*



PEACE

TO ALL MEN OF GOOD WILL



Dearest and most beloved Brothers and Sisters,

Greeting, blessings, and MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Once again it is time to (try) to think of Christmas, and everything that Christmas presents to us.

During the past twelve months so much has happened. Almost every day reasons for sadness have increased and multiplied. Almost every day we have witnessed war, storms, earthquakes, volcanic activity, killings, and crimes never before heard of. Crises in the world; crises in the nation; crises in the family; crises in the CHURCH! We cry out: "How long, O Lord, how long?" Our hearts go out in prayer and compassion to the unknown numbers of those who have died because of the storms, those who have given their full measure as the hand of an angry God moves slowly about spelling out the words of Divine wrath! But is not God looking upon a world that has lost contact with Him, and on a world that mocks anything that pertains to His existence?

All those who can sing "Glory to God in the Highest" this Christmas, have so much to be thankful for. How wonderful that we are still here and still able to cry out "Thank You, O Lord!" However, for our gratitude to be effective we must have a genuine intention and our gratitude must demonstrate a willingness to re-examine our priorities. We must be willing to ask ourselves: "What holds topmost importance in our lives?" The winds that blow are all full of every evil and corruption, and as they whirl about and all around us they disturb the good intentions even of "Men of good will." We say we love God, but do we not sometimes equate fun and pleasure and things and money with Him? Do we not in our love for God sometimes find ourselves issuing forth with serious prejudicial judgments against our neighbor? We say we love God, but does it not sometimes happen that our prayers sift out certain ones from our compassion for this reason or that reason or the other reason?

In the whirls of the wind it seems that we have lost our balance, thereby forgetting how to distinguish the material from the spiritual, and we no longer know how to weigh the comparative merits of the two. In fear and trembling we run away from the fury of the wind and the sea