DIOCESAN CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16 NIV)

Beloved in the Lord,

We bring you greetings of love as we welcome you to this season of celebrating the unfathomable love of God even in the midst of global unrest and confusion.

We remember how we treasure the love we share with our families, friends, colleagues and those who have positively affected our lives. But in Christmas, we celebrate the love of God for a rebellious people and sinful world. According to John 3:16, "This is how God loved the world," and everyone in it" He became that which He created. "Being in very nature God, He did not consider equality with God something to be used to His own advantage; rather, He made Himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness" (Philippians 2:6-7). Such a passionate, self-sacrificing act is hard for my mind to comprehend. God reached out, expecting nothing in return, and emptied Himself completely, for the very ones who rejected Him. You and I included.

God knew how helpless we were. Watching us hurt, manipulate, use, and kill one another, God could have left us to our destruction. He could have been repelled and turned away in disgust. Instead, He drew near in love

Therefore, as we celebrate this Christmas, necessity lays it on us that we must reciprocate this love of God by reaching out in love to those who do not deserve our love. We must pay a sincere attention to the cries of the less privileged and those whose livelihood depend on the proper discharge of our duties and responsibilities. We must remember that apart from Christ, we are nothing but dust, and so use every opportunity and privilege we have to the glory of God and service of others. May we never forget that this Babe of Bethlehem shall return again as Judge and Rewarder of all men.

Once again, and on your behalf, we give God all the glory for preserving us thus far, as we wish you all a very merry Christmas and trust in His grace for a peaceful 2021.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL AND MAY YOUR DAYS REMAIN LONG AND BRIGHT.

! And to Him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you faultless before His throne; to the only wise God be all glory honor and majesty now till the end of the age. Amen.

Your Brother and Bishop,

