

Fr. Ed's Christmas Message to Parishioners

AS we welcome the Good News of this great light that comes to illuminate the dark places of this world, the dark, empty tired places of our hearts the instant we invite it, may I also welcome you:

YOU – the families and individuals that make up this Parish

YOU – the faces we see at every Mass

YOU - the children, we are so honored to watch grow up

YOU - the faces we see when you can get here

YOU – the guests of these families today(tonight)

YOU – who have come from far away , for time with your precious loved ones at this Sacred time of the year

YOU – who have come home to light the hearts of those you have not seen in a long time.

Welcome, your place here with Jesus by the manger awaits you.

In these days of COVID-19, this Christmas may not be as the past Christmases had been but wherever you are , May the spirit of joy at Christmas be with you. Let us welcome the Newborn Jesus into our hearts and into our Canadian Martyrs Parish Community.

This is a Parish of big-hearted people ,of unsung heroes , generous with their time, their care , their commitment (year after year), generous enough to quickly come forward to fulfill a human need – when the need becomes evident.

To volunteer without recompense or acknowledgement , to help your fellow man, demonstrates the best we are capable of ; the best that Jesus knew was in all , it only awaited the call. This parish hears that call consistently . To you who give of yourself, your talents, your time, our gratitude is endless and beyond words ; it is you, who carry Christ into the world , you are his ambassadors. There is no Greater calling.

Your donations and gifts through the "Together in Action" funds cover 35 different societies , associations, and services : Giving a young, unwed, frightened , homeless girl a place of refuge and hope and health for her and unborn child (The Blessed Virgin Mother must have a soft spot for these young women); Putting a warm fresh meal in front of a lonely senior, or a desperate homeless man or woman , who has not felt the touch of kindness for far too long. Also, for the programs that promote and encourage our youth here ,at St Francis High School and St Margaret School.

This Parish in their generosity is able to see their donations reach out to other countries , most recently Kenya, Pretoria, Nigeria, Bangladesh and of course in the Mission in Mexico. Imagine for a moment thinking that some church in a part of the world you have barely heard about , cares enough about you, to help you find your way out of poverty , disaster, and apathy from uncaring government.

Return to your homes today rich with love, food, laughter , Christmas blessings and traditions, with the knowing in your heart that somewhere , either in your backyard or across the world, that you have made it a better place. That is the best Christmas gift of all and the baby in the manger knows each one of you.

So, I wish you and your family Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year 2021

God bless,


Fr. Ed Hospet.