



29th December 2023

Dear Missionary Children
Merry Christmas!

With this message, I would like to share with you the joy of this Christmas season, a privileged time for the Society of the Holy-Missionary Childhood.

I imagine that you have set up a Christmas crèche and visited some of them in your parishes, town squares, and at home with your families. Every crèche is as unique as the one who set it up. Perhaps you have imagined yourself as one of the figures in the nativity scene. I hope that you have a desire to be a little like some of them.

Perhaps, you see yourself as one of the shepherds who were out at night tending their flocks. They were watchful, awake, and after listening to the angel's message, immediately departing to go to find the little child, the Son of God. Or maybe you want to be like one of the three wise men, who with much learning set out with great interest and some gifts in search of this child, this special child, who is the Son of God and yet so small. Maybe some of you want to be like St. Joseph, Mary's husband and Jesus' adopted father, who took care of him, guarded him, and protected him in the first years of his life. Maybe some little girl would like to be like Mary, the Mother of Jesus. See how beautiful, how wonderful it is to have nurtured, cared for and raised the Son of God.

I hope that you will keep in your heart this experience of the nativity scene, this desire to be part of these events that are special and with us not only during the Christmas season but every day of our life.

God's sign is simplicity. God's sign is the baby. God's sign is that he makes himself small for us. This is how he reigns. He does not come with power and splendour. He comes as a baby. He asks for our love, and so he makes himself a child.

I hope that you will always have in your heart the desire to meet and love Jesus and then make him known to others, to make his mission known and to become part of this mission.

After celebrating Christmas, we are heading towards the feast of the Epiphany and many of you are engaged in the various activities of missionary animation, following the example of the Angels who announced the birth of Jesus, of the Star that leads to Jesus or of the Three Wise Men who bring gifts to Jesus and then become his witnesses.

I ask you to be witnesses of the Gospel of joy, peace, friendship and fraternity that Jesus taught us.

I invite you to continue to proclaim the Good News to every family. May the Lord accompany you in these days in your activities with which you collaborate and promote the Missionary Childhood founded by Monsignor Charles de Forbin Janson, who was concerned about children who were dying without knowing Jesus.

Even today, many children die in many parts of the world. As young missionaries, as disciples of Jesus, we have the responsibility to pray and act so that everyone can live in dignity.

Dear missionary children:

Thank you for your support and missionary cooperation! Thank you for your joy!

Thank you for your prayers that reach the heart of God!

I pray that your missionary service be fruitful and filled with great joy.

Sr Roberta Tremarelli
Secretary General
Pontifical Society of Missionary Childhood

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