

# CHRISTMAS MESSAGE OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF THE MARIANIST FAMILY TO ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE MARIANIST FAMILY



***The shepherds went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger (Luke 2:16).  
Mary treasured all these things and reflected on them in her heart (Luke 2:19):***

But on what are you reflecting Mary?

“See this child, here, so weak and dependant,  
completely abandoned;  
he can do nothing and yet he is God, the Creator,  
He from whom I have received everything.

“And here, by my side, Joseph my spouse,  
responsive and attentive, silent and yet so  
present :  
entirely available for this child and the family  
which we form ;  
wanting to be with us in everything ;  
in love we welcome this mystery which transforms  
our lives.

“And look as well at the shepherds, the first to  
come,  
to whom no one pays attention,  
forgotten people : they are here;  
they proclaim what God has revealed to them  
and they go back filled with joy and pride,  
renewed in their dignity,  
to announce this good news to the world.

“And here are these wise men, who have come  
from the East, seeking a star;  
What they sought through their learning,  
they have found in this child.

“And they are here with me contemplating this  
new-born child ,  
our peace, our joy, our light :  
he transforms our hearts and our lives,  
he calls us to form this new community  
where all can join together, the poor and the rich,  
the learned and the humble,  
cultures as well as nations,  
the young, the grown, the aged.

Yes, “a child is born for us, a son is given  
to us” (Isaiah 9:5) !

“And you today personally and with your  
community,  
How will you receive him; how will you welcome  
him?

Which place do you want to give him in your life?

“The world in which you live is suffering;

do you know how to hear the cry  
of the victims of injustice and of war,  
of exploited children and violated women?  
Do you know, as do the shepherds,  
how to get up and receive light and consolation ?

“In the midst of indifference and relativism,  
do you know how to go in search of his star,  
as do the wise men,  
and to recognize the Prince of Peace,  
and to let yourselves be sent on new paths?

“Are you ready to form this new community  
where the poor and the little ones have the first  
place and are heard,  
where those who hunger for justice and peace are  
consoled,  
where God can be recognized by those who seek  
him,  
where witnesses to a new world coming, are  
born?”

*The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising  
God for all they had heard and seen (Lk 2:20).*

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