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Christmas 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,


Each one of us carries treasured memories of joyous Christmas celebrations. This year, the Christmas we are about to celebrate will be different. Because of the pandemic and the changes at work in our society, this season will no doubt have a more somber and restrained tone. And yet the very heart of our Christmas celebration does not change and, indeed, may be more important than ever.

To celebrate the birth of Jesus summons us to remember that the Word became flesh. In Jesus, God became one with us in all things but sin. In Jesus, God understands the joy and grief of our human condition from the inside. The great blessing of Christmas is Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with-us—the blessed assurance that God walks with us on our joyful and challenging life journey.

In his recent encyclical, *Fratelli tutti*, Pope Francis reminds us that we are all sisters and brothers to each other, ultimately linked together in Jesus Christ who is Son of God and Son of Mary. As brothers and sisters, let us hold each other in the mystery of the Word made flesh. Let us pray for each other. I will certainly remember you, and I ask you to remember me. And although this may be a different kind of Christmas, it may also be one of the most meaningful.

God bless you and your loved ones and keep you safe in his providential love.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

  
Archbishop of Chicago