

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2015

***Dear Pupils, Students, Faculty, Support Personnel and Fellow Administrators,
Greetings!***

Since we are from the Basic Education Department (BED), it is just but fitting to revisit the fundamental teachings of the Catholic Church about the season of Advent where we usually begin the Church Year and the meaning of Christmas both personally and communally.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us that – “When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior's first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming. By celebrating the precursor's birth and martyrdom, the Church unites herself to his desire: "He must increase, but I must decrease." (CCC 524)

Thus from the Season of Advent, we likewise reflect that - “Jesus was born in a humble stable, into a poor family. Simple shepherds were the first witnesses to this event. In this poverty heaven's glory was made manifest. The Church never tires of singing the glory of this night:

The Virgin today brings into the world the Eternal
And the earth offers a cave to the Inaccessible.
The angels and shepherds praise him
And the magi advance with the star,
For you are born for us,
Little Child, God eternal (CCC 525)

Practically, we are all invited to be Witnesses of what these celebrations convey in terms of meaning and purpose and how the humble personalities of John the Baptist, Blessed Virgin Mary, St Joseph and her spouse and Prophet Isaiah encourage all of us to concretely celebrate the meaning of Christmas especially from the avenue of our Savior who chose to be born in a manger to be one with us and among us, to be EMMANUEL.

Blessed Christmas to All,

Fr. Felino B. Javines Jr., SVD