



Christmas: God's Peace!

*"God's peace is not a cry sent out to the four corners of the universe.
Peace is God, risking his life, as a child of man, on Christmas night."*

Dear brothers and sisters, Christmas is here!

God comes into the world in a humble human family. A fragile infant in his mother's arms. There was no room for them in the common room? No matter! A manger will serve as his cradle. God does not let our closed doors stop him.

What incredibly Good News! "Ah, what a great mystery! God becomes a child!" says the hymn. God puts himself in our hands. God risks his life, arms open wide, begging for the love we are willing to give him.

And that is simply how true peace comes to us. Not by imposing ourselves on others with weapons. And not by the thunder of a heavenly voice scolding us like naughty children: "Enough! No more war, no more quarrels! On your knees, all humans. I am in charge! I am the Almighty!"

No! Through gentleness. Through his trust in us.

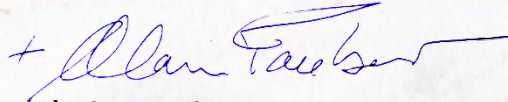
A child is born to us, and suddenly we want to be better. He reaches out his hand to us, and we can finally open ours to the little ones of the earth. He shows himself to be fragile and poor, and we can regain our freedom in the face of all the glitz and glamour that would hypnotize us. And Hope is reborn. And the new world is already sprouting around us, in our families, and beyond.

It is Christmas. And since that first Christmas, God has been telling us: "I am with you, to sow peace." During these festive days, the entire diocesan team joins me in wishing you this deep peace, welcomed and shared.

May Christ, Prince of Peace, fill you with his blessings and guide your steps throughout the new year.

Merry Christmas to all!

A happy, blessed, and holy year of Peace and Hope!



† Alain Faubert,
Bishop of Valleyfield

