



AD POPULUM

VETUS ROMANUS APOSTOLATUS



"Pax et benedictiones"

A PASTORAL EPISTLE TO THE FAITHFUL

Carissimi

May the peace and blessings of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you this Christmas season. As we gather to celebrate the birth of our Savior, let us reflect on the profound mystery of the Incarnation, where God, in His infinite love, humbled Himself to take on human flesh.

In Jesus Christ, we see the personification of divine love. God, who is Love itself, chose to enter into our broken and fallen world, to share in our humanity, and to reveal to us the depth of His love. This self-emptying act of God's love is a testament to His immense compassion and His desire to bridge the gap between the divine and the human.

The Incarnation reminds us that true love is sacrificial in nature. It is not self-seeking or self-serving, but rather, it seeks the good of the other above all else. God's love for us is an embodiment of this sacrificial love, in Christ, who willingly offered Himself upon the cross for the salvation of humanity. This act of ultimate sacrifice demonstrates the depths to which God is willing to go to express His love for us.

As children of God, we are called to imitate this sacrificial love in our own lives. Just as God gave us the gift of life and free will, we are called to use these gifts to love and serve Him and others selflessly. True love requires us to put aside our own desires and preferences, and to prioritize the needs of others. By sacrificing ourselves for the sake of God's will, we participate in the divine love that was made manifest in Jesus Christ.

In these times, where the world often seems shrouded in uncertainty and turmoil, the message of Christmas shines as a beacon of hope, love, and peace. The birth of Christ in the humble setting of a manger in Bethlehem is a reminder to us all of the simplicity and purity at the heart of our faith. It is a call to return to the essentials of our belief – love for God and love for one another.

This Christmas, let us remember that our Lord Jesus Christ came into this world not in grandeur and opulence but in humility and simplicity. He chose to be born not among the powerful and privileged but among the meek and the marginalized. This profound act of humility is a lesson for us all to embrace simplicity and to find Christ in the least of our brothers and sisters.

In the spirit of the season, I encourage each one of you to extend your hand in generosity and kindness to those in need. Let the love of Christ manifest through our actions, as we feed the hungry, clothe the naked, comfort the sorrowful, and welcome the stranger.

In doing so, we not only honour the memory of Christ's birth but also embody His living presence in our world.

During this holy season, let us reflect on the immense love that God has shown us through the Incarnation. Let us strive to imitate this love in our relationships with others, by sacrificing ourselves for their well-being. In doing so, we not only honour the example set by our Lord, but we also draw closer to the divine nature that resides within us.

Let us also take this time to strengthen our family bonds, renew our friendships, and forgive past transgressions. The family, as the domestic church, plays a crucial role in our faith, mirroring the love and communion of the Holy Trinity. Cherish these moments together, united in prayer and love, as we recall the Holy Family of Nazareth and their unwavering trust in God's plan.

May the joy and peace of Christmas fill your hearts and homes this season. May the love that was born in the manger continue to guide and inspire you throughout the coming year. And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

J. D.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeanne Schriener". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

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In Vigilia Nativitatis Domini MMXXIII A.D..