



AD POPULUM

VETUS ROMANUS APOSTOLATUS



"Verbum Caro"

To the beloved faithful of the Old Roman Apostolate

Carissimi

“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14)

As we celebrate the sublime mystery of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, I write to you in the spirit of profound reverence and holy urgency. The birth of the Saviour—the Incarnate Word—is an event that not only divides history but unites Heaven and earth. In these times of great trial and confusion, the light of Bethlehem shines with even greater clarity, calling us back to the immutable truths of our Holy Faith.

The Incarnation: God’s Triumph Over Darkness

The Holy Infant, born in a humble manger, is the eternal response to the rebellion of sin and the darkness of a fallen world. He comes not in power and majesty, but in meekness and purity, to teach us that the Kingdom of God is built not upon the principles of this world but upon the eternal decrees of the Almighty. His birth is the culmination of divine love—a love that seeks to redeem and restore, even when humanity has turned away.

In our era, marked by confusion and rebellion, the Incarnation offers the clearest possible contrast. As modern society glorifies pride, rebellion, and falsehood, Christ’s birth in poverty and humility reveals the path to true greatness. The manger in Bethlehem calls us to reject the false promises of the world and to embrace the eternal truths of our faith.

The events of the past year have underscored the spiritual warfare in which we are engaged. Whether it is in the defence of life against the growing acceptance of euthanasia, or in protecting the innocence of children from harmful ideologies, we are reminded that our fight is not against flesh and blood, but against the powers of darkness. The birth of Christ is our assurance that the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it.

A Year of Mission and Witness

This year, by the grace of God, I have had the privilege of visiting many communities across the globe. From the fervent devotion of the faithful in the Philippines to the

ancient traditions preserved in Greece, from the prayerful gatherings in the Czech Republic to the vibrant witness of Catholics in the United States, these journeys—spanning over 42,900 miles—have been a source of inspiration and renewal.

In the Philippines, the faith of the people shines brightly despite material hardships. Their love for Christ and His Church is evident in their worship and their daily lives. In Greece, the land of saints and martyrs, I witnessed the enduring power of tradition to anchor the faithful amidst the storms of modernity. Each visit reminded me of the universality of the Catholic Faith and the strength that comes from our shared commitment to the Gospel.

The *Nuntiatoria* publications have also played a crucial role this year. These newsletters have provided theological insights, addressed the pressing moral issues of our time, and shared updates on the Apostolate's mission. They are a reminder that the work of proclaiming the Gospel is not limited to the pulpit but extends to every means of communication. Through these efforts, we have strengthened the bonds of faith and provided clarity amidst the confusion of our age.

Christmas: A Time for Conversion and Hope

The birth of Christ is not merely an event to be remembered but a call to action. Just as the shepherds left their flocks to adore the newborn King, we too must leave behind all that hinders us from embracing the fullness of God's will. This Christmas, I urge you to make a heartfelt examination of conscience and approach the Sacrament of Confession with humility. Do not delay, for God's mercy is infinite, and He waits to welcome you back into His grace.

This holy season is also a time of profound hope. The trials and challenges we face—whether in our personal lives, in our communities, or on a global scale—are not the end of the story. The Child of Bethlehem is the Prince of Peace, and His reign will have no end. Trust in His promises, and let His light guide you through the darkness.

A Call to Resist and Rebuild

In these perilous times, we are called not only to resist the encroachments of the enemy but to actively rebuild the Church upon the foundation of Christ. This requires unwavering fidelity to Sacred Tradition, a rejection of compromise with error, and a willingness to suffer for the truth. The attacks against the Church today come not only from external forces but also from within. We must be vigilant against the spirit of the world that seeks to dilute and distort the Faith.

To resist is not enough; we must also rebuild. Families, as the domestic Church, must become strongholds of faith and virtue. Fathers and mothers must teach their children the truths of the Faith and shield them from the corrupting influences of

modern society. Prayer, particularly the Holy Rosary, must become central to our lives, as Our Lady has given it to us as a powerful weapon against evil.

Let us also work to restore reverence and beauty in our worship. The liturgy is the highest expression of our Faith, and through it, we encounter the living God. By restoring the sacredness of our worship, we restore the soul of the Church.

A Blessing for the New Year

As we stand at the threshold of a new year, let us move forward with courage and hope. The challenges before us are great, but our God is greater. May the light of Christ illumine your paths, and may His grace sustain you in every trial. Let us take inspiration from the Holy Family, whose trust in God's providence enabled them to endure hardships and fulfill their mission.

The new year is an opportunity for renewal—a time to deepen our commitment to the Faith, to strengthen our families, and to rededicate ourselves to the mission of the Church. Let us work together to restore all things in Christ, trusting that He who began this good work in us will bring it to completion.

With my paternal blessing and prayers for you and your families, I remain,

Yours always in Christ,

J.D.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John D. Brichtelmestun", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brichtelmestunensis
S. Thomæ Apostoli MMXXIV A.D.