

NEW YEAR MESSAGE: JANUARY 2021

Have you heard or said one of the following statements recently?
I'm SO ready for 2020 to end...2021's got to be better than this...Go away, 2020...

I hear you and understand. It's been a tough year for many of us and a strange year for all of us. We're ready for a fresh start. We put the old behind us and look to the new. It is a fresh start offering new opportunities and expectations. On New Year's Day, January 1, the Church honors Mary, the Mother of God. She carried Jesus to the world. With her unconditional faith, our Blessed Mother saw the love of God in the sorrowful, the ordinary, and the joyful. She who placed her trust in God saw his glory in everything.



At the end of 2020, a challenging year for all of us, the model of Mary offers a wonderful guide for our year ahead. Let us immerse ourselves in God's love and respond to His presence and grace by bringing that love to others. Like Mary, *we have to bring to birth God in all our endeavors*. We have to share how God is working in our lives with those around us and resolve to let God shape our hearts to be more generous and loving.

Moreover, the year 2021 has proclaimed by Pope Francis as a special "Year of St Joseph." Pope Francis in his Apostolic Letter entitled *Patris corde* ("With a Father's Heart"), describes Saint Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows.

St. Joseph has proven himself a miracle worker throughout the history of the church and also today. He answers prayers simply, humbly and thoroughly. It is with great excitement and confidence that I invite you to celebrate this year in honor of him.

May our new year be a time of commitment, courage, and renewal. Be assured of my prayers that 2021 will be a year full of blessing, health and joy for you and your loved ones.

Always remember: *God is present in us and in the world, working for our healing and growth, our direction and our comfort, our reconciliation and our redemption.*

May this prayer to St. Joseph help us this **NEW YEAR 2021**:

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.*

*Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.*

With love,
Father Archie M. Tacay, CICM