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Glory to God in the highest, and on the earth peace among men with whom he is well pleased!

Lk. 2, 14

Christmas Greetings to all Catholics in Kyrgyzstan

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, God is Near!

As we greet Christmas this year, we once again remind ourselves of its ongoing power to encourage us and to focus our minds on that which is most important. Along with the Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph, the Angels of Heaven joined with men and women on earth in great anticipation of Christ's first coming. He came in such astounding simplicity that those who lacked humility or were focused on other desires failed to recognize Him. Of course, when He comes again, all will see His glory and there will be no opportunity to deny His power and divinity. We, here in Kyrgyzstan at this time await His coming with faith. Although sometimes distracted, we nevertheless gather in order to find Him.



The world and our own region are not without severe disturbances. This has occurred since the beginning of time. Not being exempt from the adventure and difficulties of life, we nevertheless are called to retain that *hope* which Christ alone offers—a hope, as St. Paul says, which is based in the unseen, for the seen is temporary and the unseen is eternal (2 Cor. 4:18).”

There is no doubt that the coming year will bring moments of true joy and consolation as well as some serious difficulties and challenges—which might even appear for a time to be insurmountable. This is true for our families as well as for the Church. However, we know that Christ has already won the victory. He is Near! This jubilee year we are invited to reflect on our lives as a sort of “pilgrimage of hope,” as we navigate through all of the experiences of life until we find God.

Allow me to take this opportunity to wish all of you and your families a blessed, joy-filled Christmas season and a fruitful New Year. May the joy that comes from our faith in the Comings of Jesus Christ—at His Nativity, when He comes in His glory at the end of time, and His daily, endless appearance in our hearts and souls throughout our life—bring a hope that encourages and sustains us until we meet.

Christ is Born! Let us praise Him!

†In Christ,

Fr. Anthony Corcoran
Apostolic Administrator of Catholics in Kyrgyzstan