



ARCHDIOCESE OF AGAÑA  
OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

Dec. 25, 2024

Archbishop's Christmas Message

Dear People of God,

Rejoice all ye Faithful, Jesus Christ our Savior is born! I extend the peace and love of God to everyone on this joyful Christmas day. I feel blessed to celebrate my very first Christmas on Guam as your shepherd and brother in Christ.

On Christmas, we rejoice in the greatest gift that our Almighty God has given to the whole world: “To you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord” (Lk 2:11). In his Christmas message of last year, Pope Francis said, “Those words spoken by the angel in the heavens above Bethlehem are also spoken to us. We are full of hope and trust as we realize that the Lord has been born for us; that the eternal Word of the Father, the infinite God, has made his home among us. He became flesh; he came ‘to dwell among us’ ” (Jn 1:14).

Because our Lord's love for us is everlasting, the “good news of great joy” (Lk 2:10) must remain afire in our hearts. Our hope and joy born of Christ must not be a passing thing. The truth that God loves us unconditionally and never abandons us should give us much solace as we endure the many difficulties, challenges and outright sufferings in life.

Though difficult to comprehend, as Christians we know that even our sufferings contain blessings. As St. Paul reminded the early Christians, “Not only that, but we even boast of our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope, and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us.” (Romans 5:3-5)

As mentioned last Dec.13, our Church will have further opportunity to ignite the people's understanding and celebration of the abiding hope of Christ. The Archdiocese of Agaña will join Pope Francis and the Church worldwide in observing the Jubilee Year of Hope in 2025. We'll open the Jubilee Year during the 11:30 a.m. Mass Sunday, Dec. 29 on the Feast of the Holy Family at the Dulce Nombre de Maria Cathedral-Basilica in Hagatña.

In 2025, we shall continue our synodal journey as God's people. I look forward to visiting more parishes, getting to know more people, engaging the clergy in one-on-one conversations, and, hopefully, building a culture of synodality, where communion, participation, and mission define who we are as a local church.

Merry Christmas! May the peace and love of Jesus Christ be always with you.

Most Rev. Ryan P. Jimenez, D.D.  
Archbishop of Agaña