

BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST

“This will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.” (Luke 2:12)

Like the shepherds who first went with haste to the stable, let us halt in wonder before the sign that God has given us. In silence, let us kneel and worship. What does that child, born for us of the Virgin Mary, have to tell us? What is the universal message of Christmas? It is that God is a good Father and we are all brothers and sisters. This truth is the basis of the Christian vision of humanity. Without the community that Jesus Christ has bestowed on us, our efforts for a more just world fall short, and even our best plans and projects risk being soulless and empty.

The face of God has been revealed in a human face. It did not appear in an angel, but in one man, born in a specific time and place. By his incarnation, the Son of God tells us that salvation comes through love, acceptance, respect for this poor humanity of ours, which we all share in a great variety of races, languages and cultures. Yet all of us are brothers and sisters in humanity! Our differences, then, are not a detriment or a danger but a source of richness. As when an artist is about to make a mosaic: it is better to have tiles of many colors available rather than just a few! May this Christmas help us to rediscover the bonds of community linking us together as individuals and joining all peoples. Merry Christmas to all!

—Pope Francis

How will I try to recognize the face of God in every person I now meet?