



December 20, 2020

My Christmas message for this year has one word: “Thank you.” Thank you, God, for keeping your promises and sending your only Son, Jesus Christ into the world to save us. In this sacred action of God, we learn how faithful He is by keeping his promises. This is who God is, fidelity, love and truth.

But this action was not done by God alone. Other divine and human beings joined God to do this work of salvation. We give thanks to the Angel Gabriel for delivering God’s message to Mary. He said to her: “*You have found favor of the Lord... You are a person full of grace... You will be the Mother of Jesus.*”

Thank you, Mary, for saying “yes” to this difficult but holy mission to be the Mother of the Redeemer. Thank you for sacrificing your life to bring light and life to the world. And thank you Joseph, for your willingness to take care of Mary and her Son, for protecting them as they faced rejection and persecution.

Without this divine and human covenant, we would not be celebrating Christmas. This is Christmas, when the divine and the human come together: Jesus, the Incarnated word of God, The Emmanuel, God-with-us.

I want to invite you to join me this Christmas to give thanks to God for the gift of Jesus to us. Because of this precious gift we have life that is eternal.

I want to add a word of “thank you” to our church. It is because of the church of Saint Edwards that we can read and celebrate the birth of Jesus. This story is coming to us because of our church. Thank you, church!

You receive this message because you are part of Saint Edwards community. So, my word of “thank you” also goes to you, for being faithful to God, faithful to your parish and for keeping your promises. Because of you, the story of Christmas is happening now, is being heard here, and shared to many people who are searching for God, for the divine, for inspiration, for life, purpose and peace in their lives.

From the bottom of my heart, I want to thank God for Jesus, and to you for keeping your faith in Him. Now allow your gratitude and your joy of God that dwells in your heart shine in the whole world.

Merry Christmas to you!!! Feliz Navidad,

The Rev. Fabio Sotelo, Interim Priest