

KFI President Year-end Message - 2020

Peace to all our brothers and sisters.

In our faith journey as husband and wife, the season of ADVENT is so often passed unnoticed. We have to admit that, for us, Advent is often overlooked in the busyness of a typical December.

But this year, it will be different. Advent has delivered the message to us.

Our December calendar is expectedly filled up by the month of October. It is jam-packed with many joyful events that we anticipate every year. There are several Christmas parties we are invited. There is various invitation to attend the Simbang Gabi sponsored by Filipino prayer groups in various churches, Christmas concerts, tree lightings, dinner with friends and family. Added to this mix, are the many traditions of being a part in preparation of the KFI Year End Gathering, our St Valentine prayer group Christmas Party and our workplace annual Christmas lunch which I am actively involved in the planning. But this year our December calendar is almost empty. What we have is the several zoom meetings that we have to conduct in preparation of the YEAR END GATHERING via zoom. In addition, we have the virtual SIMBANG GABI sponsored by ME Board 10.

Honestly, we are saddened for the absence of these cherished events. But it is in this very emptiness that the meaning of Advent will sink in. Without the many distractions, we noticed the quiet expectation of what is Advent compared to previous years.

We have slowed down and have time to spend to sit in our church rectory before we start our WORD celebration with our Neocatechumenal way community. We have time to console those who are mourning due to a loss of love one to COVID 19. We have time to be on the phone to comfort those whose family members are fighting this pandemic. We will have time to write Christmas cards for mailing because we are spending more time at home. There is time to read books that are inspirational recommended by friends. There is time to listen to our I pad when I hear them play old Christmas songs while our home is at peace rather than hearing those speakers in a crowded mall.

We have time to sit in bed and give to God the start of our day. There is time to pray the morning prayer and four mysteries of the Holy Rosary. We have time in our hearts to go through Advent. It is the season of preparation for the coming of the Lord. We have the time of sacred silence, expectation and HOPE for Jesus is coming to give us SALVATION.

God called us to communicate the joy of the Gospel to the world. For us to bring the joy of Jesus Christ to the entire world that is hurting, that is broken, that is oppressed, that is lonely, that is depressed, that is crying, that is full of mistrust during this unprecedented time of PANDEMIC.

We are sent to bring them the good news that God knows that there is darkness and it will be taken cared through Christ believers here on earth, which is the CHURCH—which is us.

Whatever the crisis, we know that the final result will be union with God. Jesus is with us always, particularly in the worst of times of COVID 19.

We are looking forward that we could go back to NORMAL. We look for December 2021. We expect the many events we usually attend will return and that they will be even more appreciated because this year we missed them. For the moment, we are deeply thankful for Advent that is better than normal. It is Advent that has special meaning. We pray that we are preparing for the joy of Christmas and the return to ordinary times after the vaccine is distributed and the PANDEMIC will be eradicated.

As we are almost in completion of the first year of our three-year term, we thank you all for your total support. We would not have done the many ZOOM events without the dedication of the members of the BODY OF CHRIST. Doing so we made it known that KFI Ministry is alive.

The reporting from various ministries is full of vision for the coming year of 2021 and we look onward working together to fulfill them after government guidelines will ease up the restrictions on how many people can gather.

Merry Christmas to all KFI families and a blessed Happy New Year.

Bro Jun and Sis Marlene Osma