

Rome, Christmas 2011



Dearest Sisters and young women in formation,

In just a few days we will be celebrating Christmas. Our Advent “pilgrimage”—which we lived in a spirit of vigilant waiting, in a search for essentials and in the climate of “eloquent silence” generated by the Word—is drawing to an end, once again in the heart of the night, where we abruptly find ourselves thanks to the words of the evangelist Luke (cf. Lk. 2:1-14): *“In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.”* All of a sudden, the darkness is illuminated and wonderful news is proclaimed to people who usually “don’t count,” who don’t make the headlines: *“I bring you news of great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.”* Surrounded by this radiant light, the shepherds are initially frightened but their fear immediately gives way to overwhelming joy. God has remembered them; he has been thinking about each of them in particular: the most insignificant, the forgotten, the marginalized. Their wonder will quickly be transformed into adoring vigil at the feet of the newborn Child.

Dear ones, this joyful news, proclaimed to us TODAY, unites us here and now to that historic event. We feel the Father’s thoughts and love centered on us. We realize that we are born with the Child Jesus, who reconciles us with our fragility, our littleness and our limitations. In fact, the secret for embracing and living one’s limitations as a “place” of mutual acceptance, communion and mercy can be found in the sign offered us by God (*“a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger”*).

On this birthday of her Son, may Mary show us how to take care of him—the One who hides himself in our littleness, in the “flesh” of every human being, now his dwelling place until the end of time. May she teach us to do this in the “liturgy of our daily life,” through a benevolent attitude toward others, a gentle demeanor and charitable speech. Only then will the words proclaimed by the angels on that holy night be fulfilled: *“Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”*

I want to conclude this short message to each one of you with the words of Blessed James Alberione, which I make my own:

As we kneel before the manger, what graces should we ask for? Through Mary and St. Joseph, through the angels who came down from heaven to sing “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests,” let us aim at this: to live our apostolate in Christ. “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests”: this is the program of Jesus; this is the program of the sister, of the person consecrated to God. To give glory to God and bring peace—that is, his grace—to all people of good will.... How wonderful our apostolate is! May it always be more spiritual. May it always have a single goal: souls.

A blessed Christmas and happy New Year to all of you! Affectionately,


Sr. M. Antonietta Bruscato
Superior General