

MESSAGE FROM CAMPUS MINISTRY

My Christmas Message:

My prayer for you, my friend, is that the feast of Christmas, the birthday of Jesus, will inspire you to see the joy around you! Share your joy with another friend! A BLESSED CHRISTMAS to each and every one of you! Gifts of happiness, peace, strength of spirit, sincere love, all flow from my heart to yours. May this Christmas be a precious time for you and your family wherever they might be. You and I can unite with our friends in an easy chant: "We wish you a Merry Christmas, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!"

Christmas is always a time of cheerful music. Choirs of little children join elderly folks bringing joy to homes and hospitals, slums, palaces and churches around the world. We experience this same joy in the corridors and on stages here in our school. Angels filled the sky over the shepherds in the fields to announce the birth of Christ in Bethlehem. Saint Luke's Gospel relates the message: "Do not be afraid, for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today, in the city of David, a Savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord. A multitude of the heavenly host was with the angel praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests.' God loves us and has sent Jesus to us. We celebrate! So, let's sing!

One of the hymns that we sing often in St. Thomas Church is "Pass it on." It might not be exactly a Christmas carol like 'Silent Night' or 'Angels We Have Heard on High,' but perhaps it should be. The last verse goes like this: "I wish for you, my friend, this happiness that I've found. You can depend on Him, it matters not where you're bound. I'll shout it from the mountaintop. I want my world to know, the Lord of love has come to me. I want to pass it on." Our Christian belief tells us that Jesus came to spread happiness in a spirit of sincere love. Even the Santa Claus in department stores seems to tell us that! Each morning in the School Assembly I try to grasp the dominant thought or the special need of the day, whatever it might be. It is my prayer that we might see that the Christian spirit of love is meant to be a source of strength, consolation, and encouragement for each of us in whatever special need we might have. That's the Christmas spirit, isn't it! So, once again, let's sing!

When I was a boy in the fifth grade, I missed Christmas. I was rather unconscious and my folks worried that I might not recover. I never wanted to miss Christmas again. Every other Christmas since then has been special, with new experiences of sharing and receiving, rejoicing in what the feast of Christmas is meant to be. As I end this letter, I pray once again that you will not miss this Christmas, or any Christmas. Jesus loves you. I am sure He wants to tell you that.

All I want for Christmas is, somehow to be your friend. God bless you.

Father Leo Travis C.S.R.

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