



Reverend Fathers, Venerable Monastics, and Pious Faithful!

*Christ is born! Glorify Him!*

What does it mean to say these words? Every year we make this proclamation, but do we heed the command that we proclaim? To truly glorify the One Who is born on this Feast is to shape our lives around His, to commit ourselves to following the Incarnate Son Who has entered the world on our behalf. He has shown us relentless forgiveness, incomprehensible compassion, and unconditional love. When we cry out, "Glorify Him!" we become hypocrites if we do not at the same time commit ourselves likewise to lives of forgiveness, compassion and unconditional love. There are no terms placed upon the love that the Son of God shows us in His Birth, there are no "strings attached." True love has come into the world, setting the world free. So we must let our love be equally unconditional, equally free and limitless.

Brethren, today we see how God loves us. Let us call to mind also the words this same Christ will say when He has grown from infancy to human adulthood: "This is My commandment, that ye love one another as I have loved you" (John 15:12). This commandment is born today. So let us be Christians not just in word, but in truth, in the face of this miracle. Let us receive the love revealed in the Lord's Nativity, let us genuinely love one another, and then we will truly glorify God on High.

Bestowing upon you my archpastoral blessing, and wishing you the joy of the Feast,

A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a cross at the beginning and a stylized, cursive name that appears to be 'Kyryl'.

Archbishop of San Francisco and Western America ROCOR