



## NATIVITY EPISTLE

Of the Ruling Archbishop  
of the Western American Diocese ROCOR

Reverend Fathers, Venerable Monastics,  
and Pious Faithful

*Christ is born! Glorify Him!*

The fast of the Nativity is a journey that leads us towards a great light on the horizon, as once a star led the magi to Bethlehem. What was set before us during these days has been the great feast of our Lord's birth, drawing us ever closer to itself; and now we arrive at the cave, to join with the thousands and millions who have come for two millennia to venerate His birth, and we find the fulfilment of our journey in the same place as they.

The world, for its part, draws us towards many things: confusion, anxiety, even despair. At times it draws us toward our own desires, at times, directly away from God. We certainly witness all these things in our day. But the star of Bethlehem draws us ever towards the birth of God himself, who overcomes our sin and unites us to the joy of his own life; and the Church calls us ever toward the life He gives, which sets us free from the bonds of darkness and death.

We have arrived at the climax of this journey; we celebrate now the joy of the feast. Yet even this is but a way-post along the greater path. Let us remain faithful, continuing in the response to our Christian calling, until one day we join in His Kingdom the Lord Who today has come into our world and our hearts.

Conveying to you every blessing from the Newborn Lord,

+ Archbishop Cyril

The Nativity According to the Flesh of our Lord, God and Saviour, Jesus Christ  
25 December 2017 / 7 January 2018