



Istituto Figlie di Maria Ausiliatrice
Via dell'Ateneo Salesiano, 81 – 00139 Roma
LA SUPERIORA GENERALE

Greetings to the Past Pupils Rome, December 16, 2023

Dear Past Pupils,

We come together with joy in this annual meeting to exchange greetings for a blessed Christmas and a peaceful 2024, which we hope will be better than the year that has passed.

We cannot ignore that the times we are living in are confusing and contradictory. We are immersed in great desires for peace yet overshadowed by violence and wars, fierce and inhumane, in many parts of the world. However, at this time, it is still Christmas! Jesus does not abandon us and renews for us the Mystery of His Nativity, rekindling Hope and trust in us. His coming allows us to be born anew from within, to find in Him the strength of love once more, and to embrace the announcement that resounds once again on this holy night: "Today, a Savior has been born to us." The Lord, the King of the Universe, chooses to come into the world small and humble, like all the children of humanity, to make us children of God. Our often wavering Faith is strengthened in Him: we are all beloved children of free, unique, total, and selfless love.

In the passage from Isaiah 9:5, we read:

*For a child is born to us, a son is given to us;
upon his shoulder dominion rests.
They name him Wonder Counselor, God-Hero,
Father-Forever, Prince of Peace.*

And this weak Son enters the world in a dark stable, a Light in the night. He allows us to discover something important: just as in Bethlehem, God loves to do great things through our poverty. Jesus, our salvation, lies in the manger and does not fear our poverty; he knows our fragility and incompleteness! He asks us to make room for Him to transform us, to receive the grace of His humility.

He is the Prince of Peace, coming to bring us peace or, better yet, to help us build peace in the desert of our loneliness, where we often die for lack of love. He teaches us to care for the people around us without leaving anyone aside.

Before Him, the Awaited One of the ages and Lord of the Universe, we can prostrate ourselves and adore Him as the Shepherds and the Magi did, without fear of having mistaken our goal and path simply because we are in front of a Child, a creature without a voice and power. We, too, want to adore Him.

To adore God means to learn to be with Him, to stop and converse with Him, feeling that His presence is the truest, best, and most important. To worship the Lord means to declare that He is the only God of our life and the history of all times.

Therefore, we entrust to Him our lives, the present, and the future of humanity, the people dear to us, those we encounter every day but do not know. We ask that He may still be the King of peace for all, grant us peace, and help us build peace.

Then it will truly be Christmas!

Suor Chiara Cazzuola
Superiora generale dell'Istituto FMA
