

Rev Dr Francis P. Xavier SJ  
Rector | Vice President



Loyola College Society, Chennai.

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**Dear members of Loyola Family,**

Greetings. In the Christmas season we exchange greetings and gifts (of what we have) but we are invited to exchange of what we are with others.

**Being:** Let us, as Ignatius would say, bring to our imagination the Child born on the first Christmas night. It was a fragile and human and vulnerable Child at the mercy of animals and threatened by inclemency of weather. It was a migrant child as His parents were on their way for registration as part of Roman census. There was nothing to clothe-in and nothing to feed on for this Baby who descended from Heaven. Is this child, for us, one of the 10,000 children dying every day due to hunger and malnutrition; or one of the 125,000 unwanted/aborted children every day; or one of the children left out soon after birth in hospitals or along the road as useless or not needed? We could ask ourselves the Ignatian questions: What have I done to them? What am I doing to them? And what could I do to them?



**Becoming:** But this fragile Child, born in a dark and insignificant and unknown cave, would grow up to say: I am the Way (Jn 14:6). This Child, in need of so many necessities to survive every moment, would say one day: Come to me all who are weary and heavily burdened (Mt 11:28). This unknown Child would become the center of heaven and earth on the Cross so that we could live, move and have out being (Act 17:28). We too, as children of God, have the potential to become the other but we need to realize it. Jesus said: I am the light (Jn 8:12) and he also said, you are the light (Mt 15:14). We are invited to become the Light of Jesus to others.

**Response:** Is Christmas an event or an experience? Event is routine but experience is a life-changer. What is our response to the lonely children left out untended and uncared for? Jesus of Christmas implies we need to be born in others' lives – We need to be the game-changer in others' lives for the better. The world is burning with war and greediness; and people are longing with desire for freedom and equality. We are the Moses standing at the foot of the burning bush (of issues): Are we just spectators or path-makers? Initially Moses was curious to look at the burning bush; but he soon realized his role to become the liberator of the oppressed.

Christmas is a divine intervention to redeem us and we now need to redeem people from poverty, discrimination, injustice. Jesus came to make us divine. Irenaeus said: Glory of God is human beings fully alive. We need to turn non-people into our equals. Then, we could sing Gloria with the angels.

May the peace and joy of the Babe of Bethlehem descend on us and remain with us and radiate through us to the entire world around us. Happy Christmas. The Jesuit Community would remember you in prayers especially during this holy season. Wish you a happy New Year 2023.

With kind regards,

Francis P Xavier, SJ

**Joyful Greetings  
for Christmas and  
New Year**



Jesuit Residence, Loyola College Campus, Nungambakkam, Chennai - 600 034. TN, INDIA

☎ +91-44-28178220, 28178200 ☎ +91-44-28175566 ✉ sup.lcc@censj.org 🌐 www.loyolacollege.edu