



ORDINE DEGLI AGOSTINIANI SCALZI

PRIORE GENERALE – prioregen@oadnet.org

Piazza Ottavilla, 1 – 00152

Roma – Italia

Tel.: +39 06 5896345 – www.oadnet.org

Prot. Reg. V; fol. 219/09

I proclaim to you good news
of great joy that will be for all the people.
For today in the city of David
a savior has been born for you
who is Messiah and Lord
(Lk. 2:10-11).

Subject: Christmas Greetings 2020.

Dear Confreres,

the imminence of Christmas offers me the opportunity to personally address each of you to present my most sincere wishes for happy holidays. I do it, inspired by the words of our Holy Father Augustine. “How much did you love us, oh good Father, that you did not spare your only Son, handing him over to the hands of the wicked! [...] We could have believed that your Word was far from human contact and despair of us, had he not become incarnate and lived among us” (Conf. X,43,52 and 54).

It was undoubtedly compassion (= suffering together) for man that prompted Christ to say to the Father: Here I am, send me! (cfr. Is. 6:8). The Incarnation of the Son of God is one of the gestures of the Father’s radical merciful love for us. “Who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance” (Phil. 2:6-7). Compassion, combined with mercy, changed God’s outlook on humanity.

By grace we were saved, that is, not by a love that stops at mere justice, but by grace, that is, by a merciful love, therefore gratuitous, that does not look at the merits or demerits of the other.

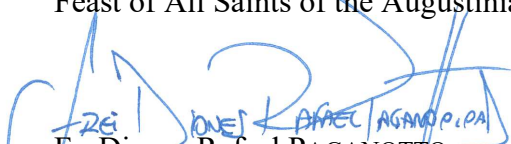
In the parable of the Good Samaritan it says: “who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight” (Lk. 10:33) which literally in the Latin text is: *miser cordia motus est*. It was the gratuitous love that moved the stranger to mercy and to take care of the unfortunate. Compassion changed the Samaritan’s gaze towards the other. By changing the gaze, compassion and mercy had the power to make the stranger a neighbor, a brother to the enemy and to spend care, time and money on him.

This is the eternal message of the unfathomable mystery of the Incarnation of the Lord Jesus, this is the conversion of heart that Pope Francis also asked of us in his Encyclical Letter *Fratelli tutti*: to nourish the same sentiments of Christ for one another, feelings of compassion and mercy.


This is what we celebrate at the Nativity of the Lord and we must always keep this in mind, because it is on this memory that love for the other is founded. “Each looking out not for his own interests, but [also] everyone for those of others. Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 2:4-5).

To each and every one I wish a holy and happy Christmas 2020.

Rome, November 13, 2020,
Birth Anniversary of Our Holy Father Augustine and
Feast of All Saints of the Augustinian Families.


Fr. Diones Rafael PAGANOTTO
Secretary General




Fr. Dorian CETERONI
Prior General