

## Faith and Light international Christmas 2017

Letter from Ghislain du Chéné, international coordinator



### In the footsteps of Jesus

**I**n order to go to Bethlehem, Joseph and Mary made a long journey on foot, more than 150 kilometres. You can imagine Joseph, walking in front, followed by the donkey carrying Mary on its back; and Mary herself carrying Jesus in her womb. A few months previously, Mary had gone to visit her cousin, Elizabeth. Jesus, before his birth, had therefore already covered a lot of road. During the days following his birth, there were others who set off to come and worship this child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger: shepherds and Wise Men from the East. Jesus was therefore destined for a life of roaming that began very early when they fled to Egypt: The Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head (Mt 8, 20).

This year, we are invited to set off and follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Let us begin by also going to meet this weak, fragile and dependant new born child. He wanted us to go to the cradle to marvel at our God, who wanted to make himself small to meet us better. The angels sang to invite us to go with them to meet the One who became flesh, let us sing as well in order to be these messengers of joy who announce the birth of the Saviour. A lot of countries have that beautiful tradition of Christmas Carols that call to all those who hear them to come and give thanks for the birth of the one who has shown us the light, *a light that shines on the inhabitants of a country in darkness* (cf. Is 9, 1): *I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life* (Jn 8, 12).



During the coming year, carried by the Guidelines prepared by our friends in Egypt, who still celebrate the coming of the Holy Family into their country with their icons, we are going to set off for the large international meeting that will take place in Lebanon, a country that Jesus visited when he went to Tyre and Sidon. Together, we are going to define the priorities for the next five years, priorities that will certainly be ambitious in order to pursue our mission to continue to follow Jesus along the paths of the Gospel. I am already praying for the new team that will be elected in July, they will be called on to show us the road to take in order to walk in the footsteps of Jesus.

Happy Christmas everyone, have a good and holy 2018!