



**Letter from Father Isaac Martinez
International Chaplain**

**Faith and Light international
CHRISTMAS 2017**

Dear brothers and sisters of Faith and Light,

Let us praise and give glory to God because on this feast of the birth of Jesus we celebrate the Lord who comes to meet with humanity (Jn 1:14), with those who practice justice with joy and follow the ways of the Lord (Is 64: 4), with the poor and the rejected (Lk 2: 8).

The feast of the birth of Jesus is one of the many opportunities we have to renew ourselves by making the encounter with the Lord closer, more intimate, more intense and deeper. How? By continually striving to listen to His Word and put it into practice (Lk 11:28); by constantly seeking, like Jesus, to live the Gospel, seeking to deepen and intensify our intimacy with the Father, by making our life a total gift in the service of the little ones and the Kingdom of God, being persons of communion who seek, believe and live as brothers and sisters.

On this feast of the birth of Jesus, the living Gospel tells us: Blessed are those who live the Gospel! Happy are those who live as Jesus lived!

As Jesus:

- who proclaimed the Gospel in his own life,
- who proclaimed the Gospel in his behavior, his attitudes, his gestures, his words and his works,
- who lived the Beatitudes in all their magnitude and fullness, I (Mt 5, 3-12),
- who loved intensely and deeply (Jn 13,1),
- who forgave totally (Jn 8: 1-11),
- who does not judge or condemn but who is compassionate and merciful (Lk 6,36).

On this great feast, let's turn our eyes to Jesus who is born again in each person; to Jesus, the source of our inspiration, of our witness, of our commitment and our joy; this joy that comes from Him and that no one can take away from us.

A joy that we must not keep for ourselves or live only among ourselves, but that we must announce, proclaim and share all around the world.

May this feast of the birth of Jesus strengthen our encounter with the Lord, may it become deeper and deeper, to continue to announce with conviction, dynamism and enthusiasm, the Good News of salvation, the Good News of Faith and Light.

Merry Christmas 2017! Happy New Year 2018!

