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My 2016 Christmas Message

Over two millenniums ago it happened in the small town of Bethlehem of Judea. A two-hour donkey journey from Jerusalem. For here a baby was born to a virgin mother as a foster father made comfort for them amongst the hay that was scattered around a small manger. For this little manger was all the shelter that they could find in all of Bethlehem. The manger's animals, and shepherds that left their flock when they saw the bright light and heard the voices of angels singing, were the only other earthly creatures that witnessed the most sacred event ever to happen. But God's presence was there and visualized by His beautiful Angels hovering above, praising the son of Man by singing Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth to all of mankind. Although the Magi from the East did see Jesus 's star and did mount their camels for their journey to pay homage to this new born King, and did bring with them gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, no others came. No kings, no Pharisees, no Priests, not even Herod with his chariot and team of horses from nearby Jerusalem came to call. Truly Jesus's birth was the humblest of beginnings for any King much less than the one who would save the world. All of us Christians know of this simple beautiful story and we re-live this event every year by sharing, in Jesus's name, our own versions of gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh with others. And this is Beautiful. But we must also be mindful that Herod after finding from the Magi that a king of the Jews was born tried to trick them to inform him the whereabouts of the new King as to allow him to pay homage as well. We know that an angel appeared to the Magi after their visit with the baby Jesus to tell them not to report to Herod but to take a different route back to their homelands. For Herod was not interested in praises to the new King of the Jews, he was interested in slaying the new King of the Jews. Sadly, it is true, in our time, that there are Herod's out there in high positions, that do not want to praise Jesus Christ but condemn Jesus Christ, and us, for believing in him. As this conversation is being read there are areas of our world that Christians are being jailed or slain for believing in Jesus Christ and we must be mindful of this and pray for them. But here it is for us, the true believers of the birth of Jesus Christ, and believers that Jesus was born to save all of mankind, to sing the praises of Jesus's birth during this Christmas season to everyone we see. Be it Christian, Jew, Muslin, Buddhist, Hindus, any other religion, and non-believers, we must stand up as Catholic men and Catholic woman, strengthened by the Holy Spirit, thankful for Jesus's birth, and fearless to state who we are. We must proudly and boldly say to them:
"I am a Christian and I Wish You a Very Merry Christmas".

And from me,
I wish you a very Merry Christmas, as well.
Bob Borelli