



**January 1, 2012
Solemnity of Mary,
Mother of God**

A Happy and Peaceful New Year to one and all!

There is no better wish we can exchange on this day, for we need peace in our hearts, our families, our nation, and throughout the world. So many resources are misused or squandered. So many lives are destroyed by hatred and war.

But we are aware that real and lasting peace can come only if people obey God's law and if God blesses their efforts. And we know that He is ready to grant us this most precious gift at the intercession of our Blessed Mother, whom we honor today as "Mother of God." May she bring the warring factions and nations to lay aside all hatred and start working together to build a civilization of love, justice, and peace.

Let this be the main intention for which we offer the Eucharist this day.



A grace-filled, peaceful, & prosperous

NEW YEAR
to one and all!!!

IN THIS NEW YEAR ...

May we grow more deeply into our identity as the Body of Christ, the family of God.

May we, as Mary and Joseph sought and found Jesus, seek and find Jesus in one another.

In this New Year, We look to an end to violence and war.

We pray for peace, understanding and reconciliation.

In this New Year, We hope for a future where all can have enough. We pray for prophetic voices to speak for the poor and the marginalized.

In this New Year, We will feel the pain of those dying from preventable diseases.

We pray that medicines can be available to all.

In this New Year, We will breathe air and feel alive. We pray to improve our stewardship of God's creation.

In this New Year, We wish to start anew. We pray for wisdom to acknowledge mistakes and move on.

In this New Year, We believe that with God's help, it is possible.

We pray for justice to reign and dignity for all people.



THANK YOU!

The priest, sisters, and staff want to thank all of you who gave us Christmas cards and great wishes for the holidays and for the many gifts you gave to us. We ask you to continue to give us the gift of your prayers, your constant encouragement and support of the ministry of Christ in the Filipino Catholic Mission of Montreal Community .



Offering Envelopes



YEAR 2012 ENVELOPES are now available for pick-up after each Mass. Please contact Mr. Raymundo Foz or the FCMM Office.

IMPORTANT REMINDER:

**Please discard your remaining 2011 envelopes.
You have to fill up the necessary information (Name & Address) when using your new envelopes.

WHAT IS A REASONABLE WEEKLY DONATION TO MY PARISH?

One suggestion that we make is to consider donating the equivalent of your "First Hour of Work" each week to the Lord.



THANK YOU !!! -
To all who made the FCMM's celebration of ADVENT and CHRISTMAS 2011 a big success...
MARAMING SALAMAT PO !



SEÑOR STO. NIÑO – The Special Celebration of the Feast of the Sto. Niño will be held on Sunday, **January 22, 2012** at 11:30 a.m. There will be the recitation of the Novena Prayers, Blessing of Children and Blessing of Images after the Mass. Devotees who would like to sponsor the Mass are requested to contact Mrs. Susie Alejandro, Mrs. Luming Silverio or the FCMM Office.

A **pot-luck** reception and Fiesta Filipino Program will follow after at the Church Basement. Please contact Ms. Teresa Ambayec for Food Assignments.

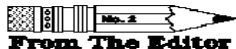


'UNDECORATE' THE CHURCH! -

We will need your help on SATURDAY, **January 14** starting at 10:00 a.m. to "un-decorate" the church and prepare it for the big feast of the Sto. Niño. Remember that "Many hands make light work." If you can lend a hand, it will be deeply appreciated... even a few minutes would help. **THANK YOU VERY MUCH !!!**



The **SANCTUARY LAMP** this week is burning for the **GLORY OF GOD** with the **THANKSGIVING INTENTIONS** of **Mrs. Marcy Ellasus and Family**.



From The Editor

The usual hospitality, acknowledgment, and stewardship corners of our news bulletin will be back next issue.



A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

Holy God, As we enter this new year, we thank you for your presence with us in all the years of our lives. We have known joy and also sorrow, success and failure. And through it all, you have been with us – the companion of all our journeys.

Much of life is fleeting and so we thank you for things that endure; the love of faithful friends, wisdom gained from experience, the reliability of nature, and your steadfast love.

We thank you for this New Year which awaits us; take us by the hand, and lead us on. Amen.

“Grant Us Your Peace!”

Pace is a tree of many diverse leaves, flowers, and fruits. It strikes its roots in the hearts of people and grows through the moisture of deep personal convictions, commitment, and perseverance in the face of opposition and obstacles of every sort. *Peace is brightened and strengthened by the sunshine of a sincere and universal love that refuses to bow to the destructiveness of hatred and vengefulness.*

Peace is the aspiration of all those who have not been perverted by the devil, the wrecker of all peace. It is promoted by its great champions, but it cannot succeed without the cooperation of millions, and ultimately the whole of humankind.

Peace is a fragile fruit. It is easily damaged and even destroyed by envy, selfishness, pride, lust, aggressiveness, insensitivity, and cruelty. *Peace is destroyed by sin whenever man turns against God or lifts his hand against his brethren.* God grieves immensely when He sees us, human beings, undermine and destroy our own peace.

From the beginning, peace has been God's dream and plan for the human family. His Kingdom is a Kingdom of peace. *The greatest sign of God's "peace initiative" is the incarnation of His own Son, the Eternal Word. He came as the Man of Peace – peace between God and us; peace among all humans.* When he was born, the angels wished peace to all men of goodwill. Before he left this world, his greeting

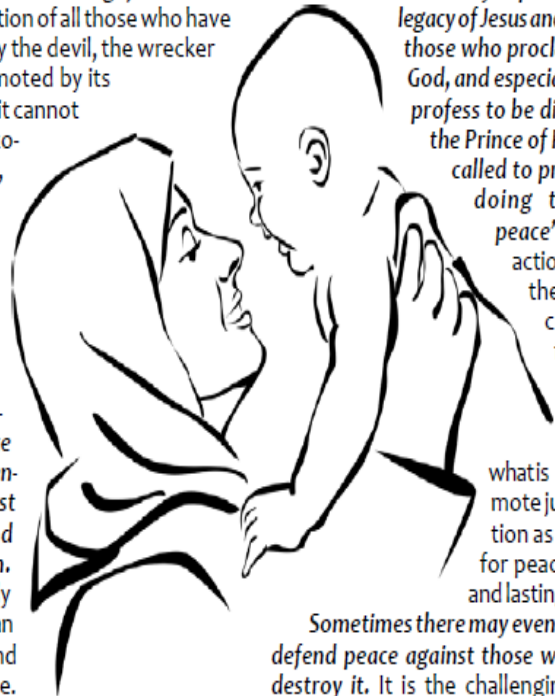
was: “Peace!”

Jesus came to our war-torn world through a woman – Mary – who is the Queen of Peace. She spent her earthly days in peace-filled communion with her Son. And from that intimacy, she derived the moral strength that she needed to be always available to cooperate with God, attentive to the needs of her neighbor.

The duty to promote peace is the legacy of Jesus and his Mother to all those who proclaim to believe in God, and especially of those who profess to be disciples of Christ, the Prince of Peace. We are all called to promote peace by doing the “works of peace” – attitudes and actions that bring out the best in people; console the afflicted, welcome the strangers, protect the oppressed; uphold what is right and promote justice and education as basic conditions for peace to be genuine and lasting.

Sometimes there may even arise the need to defend peace against those who are trying to destroy it. It is the challenging enterprise of doing so by peaceful means that reject violence in principle and in practice. The shining examples of Jesus himself, Francis of Assisi, Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Teresa of Calcutta, and John Paul II should be our greatest encouragement. God's grace will empower us to do what our weakness would be unable to accomplish.

Jess P. Balon



THE FILIPINO CATHOLIC MISSION OF MONTREAL WISHES YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES THE BLESSINGS OF A NEW YEAR. MAY A RENEWED AND LASTING BEGINNING TO PEACE IN THE WORLD AND IN OUR COMMUNITY BE GOD'S BLESSING AND OUR WORK !



Mabiyayang Pagsalubong sa Bagong Taon !



