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“ENLARGE THE SPACE FOR YOUR TENT...” (IS 54:2) BECAUSE TODAY IS CHRISTMAS

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“Enlarge the space for your tent, spread out your tent clothes unsparingly; lengthen your ropes and make firm your pegs. For you shall spread abroad to the right and left;” (Is 54:2-3).

Today is Christmas because the liturgical calendar tells us that the time has come to look out and contemplate the Mystery. Today is Christmas because the Prologue of St. John, in the Mass of the day, reminds us that *“the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have beheld his glory” (Jn 1:14).*

This Word is Jesus, the living Word with whom God wanted to reveal himself to us in a definitive way. A word of love that is always enveloping, but which at times, it is a whisper and at others a loud cry; sometimes an assurance, or at times a demand; and others a condemnation, which at times heals and sometimes discomforts.

Merry Christmas to you who are ready to welcome that definitive Word; to listen to it and let it widen your inner tent. You and I, every day, strive to strengthen the ropes of this tent with many small words: concrete, simple, human. They are words like stakes, ropes that secure the tent of the Encounter with the Mystery.

In Manila, Christmas preparations begin in September. It seems too early of preparation, but no, it is not mere preparation or consumerist advertising, it is real Christmas, illuminated by the special face of the other, the one who lives on the street not only at Christmas, but every day of the year. He and she also celebrate Christmas: when the sun rises after a night outdoors, when the typhoon keeps him safe, when someone stops to greet him and give him a look with a knowing smile, when the food arrives on time, when his neighbor in the street walks beside him...

Today is also Christmas for you and me, but the task of making every day an authentic Christmas is still pending. Let us accept today as a new invitation to widen the space of our tent, so that God can dwell in it together with all those who cross our path. Our daily life, with its challenges and encounters, is the place where God wants to make himself present.

God with us,

God among us,

God in us.

Merry Christmas!