

Blessings of this coming Christmas Season

Advent, 2010

*P. Ludo, supérieur régional adresse ses vœux aux amis des josphites.
Il donne un aperçu bref des événements CJ et des associés durant 2010*

Dear Friends,

On behalf of our community I have the pleasure of wishing you and your families the joy and happiness of the Christmas season. Perhaps this Christmas season will be marred by the economy and its adverse effects on your family, or at least on some members of your family. In spite of this, each year we are gifted by God who sends His Son for our wellbeing. As Christians we keep our focus on Christ who desires to remain with us in daily prayer and especially in the Sunday Eucharist. May I remind you that you are remembered in our weekly Mass for those in our Seminary Association and for our friends and benefactors?

Like every year we can point to highlights of the past year to be thankful for, and to expectations for the coming year, for example:

- For the first time since we began making the appeal for our African Endowment fund, this year in Santa Maria our two African priests, Frs. Alidor and Franklin made the appeal on behalf of our confreres in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. They wrote the homily and even had it translated into Spanish and Fr. Alidor preached it in excellent Spanish. As of this typing we raised a little over \$19,000. Many of our donors choose to donate through monthly donations.
- In June of 2010, a friend of the Josephites, Joan Grantham, passed away. She heard the appeal for Africa and came to see Fr. Charles back in 2008. She left in her estate funds to be used for the African Region. We purchased computers for our seminarians in Kinshasa. (Until then, they had only one for 14 students!) Fr. Charles asked them to offer prayers for Joan.
- Our Associates are continuing to grow in numbers and this past year elected Ronnie Escarzaga as the new chairperson. Some of them attended the annual DMJ/CJ Associate retreat in July at the DMJ retreat house in Palos Verdes. It was my first experience with them for the weekend and it became a precious learning on my spirituality. Membership is one of the goals for this coming year, as is to increase opportunities to come together socially.
- Looking back, all of our CJ communities still rejoice for the priestly ordination of Fr. Franklin in June in Santa Maria, and for our five new priests and seven deacons in the Congo.
- An important task for our communities here and everywhere consists in preparing for our General Chapter (July 2011) in which delegates from different countries will gather in Belgium to plan some goals for our future and elect a new General Council for five years. Please pray with us.

On behalf of all of us here in Santa Maria and Santa Barbara, I wish you the blessings of this coming Christmas Season.

Sincerely,

Rev. Ludo De Clippel, C.J.
Regional Superior

