

CCSJ makes a plea for generosity this Christmas

"Christmas is the season for kindling the fire of hospitality in the hall, the genial flame of charity in the heart." - Washington Irving

The Catholic Commission for Social Justice appeal to you to open your hearts and minds to receive God's Grace of generosity during this Christmas season and throughout the New Year. Many in Trinidad and Tobago are known for their practice of selfless charity and service.

Let us respond to Pope Benedict's call for us to be "messengers of Christ's goodness". We can do this by sharing with others what God has so generously given to us. Give to those in your own family, in your local community and in the wider society.

Every child of God is of worth. This is a time to demonstrate our love for our neighbour. Let us put our love in action; show that we respect the dignity of all our brothers and sisters by reaching out and touching the lives of others this Christmas.

For example, by giving food, Christmas hampers, clothes and other gifts to those less fortunate than ourselves, to the poor and needy, the homeless and socially displaced, to children, the elderly, the sick, those who are lonely or depressed, and the 'shut ins' (those confined at home or in hospital e.g. due to illness or disability).

There are many Charitable organizations, Non-Governmental Organisations, Community Based Organisations and Faith communities that also need your support to carry out their work. We urge you to assist them in whatever way you can.

Give yourself this Christmas – your time, talent and 'treasure'. The Lord will show you how to give and what to give. We ask you also to continue to pray and to play your part to help heal our troubled land/world.

Let us reflect on Pope Benedict XVI's words in his 2005 Christmas message:

"...let the Child of Bethlehem take you by the hand! Do not fear; put your trust in Him! The life-giving power of His light is an incentive for building a new world order based on just, ethical and economic relationships. May His love guide every people on earth and strengthen their common consciousness of being a 'family' called to foster relationships of trust and mutual support.

"A united humanity will be able to confront the many troubling problems of the present time: from the menace of terrorism to the humiliating poverty in which millions of human beings live, from the proliferation of weapons to the pandemics and the environmental destruction which threatens the future of our planet."

We wish you all a blessed Christmas and a Grace-filled New Year.

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