



A Christmas Message from Bishop Gregory Parkes

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

This year marks the 800th anniversary of the creation of the Nativity scene in Greccio, Italy, by St. Francis of Assisi.

Pope Francis, in his recent book on the Nativity, wrote the following: “The nativity scene is like a living Gospel rising up from the pages of sacred Scripture. As we contemplate the Christmas story, we are invited to set out on a spiritual journey, drawn by the humility of the God who became man in order to encounter every man and woman. We come to realize that so great is his love for us that he became one of us, so that we in turn might become one with him.”

I pray that you will have a blessed Christmas! May we celebrate the wonder and awe of what God has done for us through His Son Jesus Christ.

Recall the words of the angel to the shepherds who were tending their flocks on that sacred night. “Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David, a Savior has been born for you, who is Messiah and Lord” ((Luke 2:10-11).

May God bless you and Merry Christmas!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *Gregory Parkes*

Most Reverend Gregory Parkes
Bishop of St. Petersburg

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