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Christmas Circular 2022

December 26, 2022

Dear family and friends,

Finally, a circular letter from me! Yes, I am still alive! And have been in my new home for almost 7 months now. How time flies!

As you probably know, I'm not lonesome, ... not for anything. So, I felt at home from the first day in my new residence. Of course, I've made a lot of friends since then. The general atmosphere is quite excellent: one feels part of the same big family. There is no difference in treatment between religious and lay people. This is wonderful.

And those who want to, have the possibility to participate in a whole range of activities. It goes from a short piano concert to a card game to knitting... and so on. Personally, I don't participate in many activities. I keep myself busy and that is more than enough for me. But I did participate in a pool tournament. And I lost in the second round. I haven't played in a long time of course.

On Mondays and Fridays I preside over the Eucharist in our little community chapel. On Saturdays, I preside over the Eucharist for all the residents in a community room reserved for this purpose. The celebration is televised in all the apartments of the Residence. Sometimes I do ministry (one or two masses) in a parish on weekends. This keeps me quite busy, as I must prepare an appropriate reflection each time. Finally, on top of that, I sometimes do a little spiritual counseling. In short, I spend a good part of my time preparing homilies. And I enjoy it.

My doctor booked me in for an MRI (scan of the whole body) and brain scan many months ago, but nothing has happened yet. Who knows, maybe the Christmas Child will bring me that gift in early January! At the very least, it will bring me better immediate health since I am currently suffering from bronchitis, but I am currently taking antibiotics. I should be fine by early January.

Already, we are on the threshold of Christmas and the New Year. Yes, already! I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have stayed in touch with me during the year 2022. This has undoubtedly contributed to keep me sane mentally- I dare to believe it! - and bodily.

Well, there is so much to say, but I will stop here to wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a fantastic year 2023. Sensational even!

You are one of those people whose company I especially enjoy. For me, you are not just an acquaintance, you are someone who means a lot to me, and Christmas seems to me a particularly good time to express this tenderly.

May Christmas be for you the announcement of a growing happiness in joy and peace! May the mystery of this feast be with you every day of the New Year! Much happiness, sweetness, and serenity for the New Year, as well as the realization of your most cherished projects!

But let us not forget to beg the Child of Peace to banish all war from the face of our earth. By dint of watching reports on the war in Ukraine, I am less and less able to bear the abominations, the atrocities, even the horrors of the one I see more and more as the incarnation of evil, Mr. Putin. Yes, let us pray, on both our knees, for the end of this butchery. Let us pray for a lasting peace.



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