



# Merry Christmas



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*The angel said to them, “Don’t be afraid, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be to all the people. For there is born to you today, in David’s city, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. This is the sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth, lying in a feeding trough.” (Lk 2,10- 12)*

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Dear Faith and Light communities around the world!

**G**iven that the theme of this year's guidelines is angels, it seemed appropriate to wish you a Merry Christmas with the words of the angel who announced this news, offering you my most sincere wishes:

**Wisdom**, to discover where the angels are today, those people who speak to us about God, especially through their lives, who show us paths and possibilities, who help us to discern what is essential.

**Courage**, because the angel reminds us not to be afraid, with God everything is possible. And if we have fears, which is human, they must not paralyse us or stop us, but being aware of them, we continue to move forward.

**Joy**, because the birth of Jesus is a true joy. At Faith and Light, we know how to celebrate. God loves us so much that he wanted to become human to share our condition and our fragility. What joy to know that we are so loved!

**The ability to surprise us and the desire to seek Jesus**, because he was born in a place where no one was expecting him. A child in the cold of the night, surrounded by animals in a manger, in a remote village. And today, Jesus continues to be born in the midst of our history, but where? We need to seek him, desire to find him, put in place the necessary means and let ourselves be guided by the map of the Gospel.



I pray for each one of you, for your families and your communities. I pray for peace in many places around our planet and for those who suffer most, whatever the cause.



United in Jesus,

Raúl Izquierdo

International Coordinator of Faith and Light