



To all Marists this Christmas.

A blessed and grace-filled Christmas to you all!

When we look at the Christmas scene, the Good News seems simply incredible. Everything is so fragile with confused, migrant parents and a baby born in strange circumstances and government agents searching them out. Within this fragility, we believe the wonderful news of Christmas. The Kingdom of God shines out among us in the darkness of the fragility.

Some of our confreres probably feel fragile right now. Some are ageing and sick. Others are under all sorts of pressures, known and unknown. The Good News proclaims that the Kingdom of God outshines our weakness and, against the odds, there is new life.

None of our communities is perfect; some communities are really struggling. At Christmas we come together as family – with all our strengths and weakness – celebrating together our call from the Mother of the Child.

Among our neighbours there are sure to be plenty who are feeling discouraged this Christmas. We can't help everyone. Let's bring the Good News of the Christ Child even to one or two of them this Christmas.

Christ, like us, is born weak. Christ, like us, dies weak. Yet our strength is in the Name of the Lord.

We need a Saviour. Our Saviour has come!

Let's pray for and with each other—and the people whom we are sent to serve—that we will recognize and welcome the Saviour of the world into our hearts, lives and communities this Christmas

May Mary, Mother of God, bless our New Year, too!

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**John Larsen s.m.**  
and all the team at "Villa Maria", Rome.