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"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, good will toward men."

Luke 2:14

Christmas is a season of good will toward others. As we are called to service by our Catholic values, we look to Jesus' example of transforming lives during the Advent season.

Amidst the commercialism of Christmas, it's easy to forget the true spirit of the season. Many people get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the season when Christmas is the time to celebrate the birth of Jesus. During this time, we are reminded that the Wise Men brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to the baby Jesus. *Giving is what Christmas is all about.*

Many of us associate Christmas with sparkling lights, dazzling decorations and presents under the Christmas tree. In contrast, the poor and needy experience a very different Christmas season. It is important to be charitable to those less fortunate all year-long, but particularly during Christmas. At this time of year, many families feel especially constrained. They are already struggling to afford the basic necessities such as food and shelter; holiday meals and gifts are not possible.

Despite the suffering that is around us, transforming lives is possible. You can take action to help those in need and perhaps ease their burdens. See the face of Jesus in your neighbor. Act with compassion and love. Spread hope this Christmas by donating whatever you can to help brighten the lives of those in need.

Under the guidance and support of Monsignor Lorenzo, the Women's Guild will work collaboratively with OLPH St. Gabriel Outreach Ministry and OLPH of Downey Educational Foundation to raise funds for this year's Christmas Adopt-A-Family project. The donation period begins November 1 and closes December 8. Last year the Guild transformed the lives of 14 families and 26 children and we look forward to serving even more OLPH families and children this Christmas. With the assistance of faith-minded individuals like yourself we will be able to bring good will to many.

Kindly mail all donations to: Women's Guild, Adopt-A-Family Christmas, 10727 Downey Ave., Downey, CA 90241-3439. Checks only. Make checks payable to: Catholic Women's Guild. Donations are tax deductible. If you need a tax receipt, please write TY21 in the memo field of your check

As 2021 comes to a close I want to recognize the resiliency of our members. We have withstood months of uncertainty as we navigated difficult times. The promise of sharing the holidays with family and friends sparks a return to normalcy. As we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas, I pray your hearts are filled with gratitude, and may your Christmas be filled with joyful noise.

