



DIOCESE OF RALEIGH

Office of the Bishop

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Christmas 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Meditating on God's plan of salvation, I pondered how He carried it out and the means He used to do it. In His infinite wisdom, God does it through creation itself.

The most extraordinary thing about His plan is that God sought consent – the “yes” of Mary. His invitation to participate in the plan of salvation was manifested in the greeting and the call to become the Mother of God – He does not impose it; God awaits her “yes,” the free participation of Mary.

What a great lesson we find in meditating on those moments in the life of Mary! The Lord also invites us to participate in His plan of salvation and in His very Being. He awaits our "yes," as He did with Mary.

That “yes” implies opening our hearts – our whole being – so that, fed with the Love of God, each of us may become managers of life, of true life, and the beneficiaries of the mercy of He who became Man to speak our language and make us partakers of His kingdom: Jesus!

May we experience the call to the Love of Jesus in our Christmas celebrations and, as we come together with family and friends, may we share what we receive: Life and Love – the true Life and True Love of Jesus.

May the Child Jesus transform and bring light to the manger that is our heart so that, by welcoming Him, we may welcome and Love our neighbor.

In the Love of Jesus,

† Luis Rafael Zarama, J.C.L.
Bishop of Raleigh