Augustinians of the Assumption— Mexico



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Renewing Our Lives...

Dear brothers and sisters,

It is still Christmas. God has approached us in the most concrete way; he has come to share our humanity. The last day of the year has arrived.

In this past year we've lived through joys and sorrows; we've had good experiences and we've made mistakes. We have loved and suffered. Something new has grown in us and something has faded away. That is our truth, we are those people.

We are leaving behind one more year, and we are about to start a new one. The idea of a new year is not only full of restlessness, it's something beautiful, unknown and full of possibilities.

That's why it's even better that we ask ourselves: Can I be "a man made new"?; can new ideas and feelings be awakened in me?

Perhaps what can introduce the most newness in our lives is our way of living. The beginning of a new year is a call to renew our own life.

Fortunately, at the beginning of a new year, the Church calls us to raise our eyes to Mary. With the care and tenderness of a mother, Mary will be our guide throughout our days. She will take care of our faith and will encourage our hope.

After all, her fidelity to the word of God, her identification with the humble people of the world, her closeness to the life of Jesus, her motherly presence in the Church, and most importantly, her role as mother of he who is "God-with-us," all make her the Mother of our faith and our hope.

Finally, I am convinced that the newness of this year will not come from outside of ourselves. Real newness of life can only sprout from our interior.

Therefore, this year will be new if, more than anything, we learn to believe in a new and more confident way, if we find new and kinder ways to live alongside our neighbors.

Let's take advantage of today to review the year and take away all we can learn from it, and start 2019 with renewed encouragement, as if it were a completely fresh beginning. May we find joy in every moment.

Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all!

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