



Message de Noël 2016

Christmas, the hope that enables us walk and ...to advance!

Would hope desert our country? With regards to the recent actualities, we can ask ourselves. So:

- Where is the hope, when we close our borders to those running away from misery or the horror of war, just because we have been won-over by fear?
- Where is the hope, since many years, we have been moving the gipsies and the Romanians from one slum to another without a lasting solution?
- Where is the hope when we tell the youth and the young ones that unemployment is inevitable?

Hope is the engine that enables our society to rise above the challenges it is confronted with, with the will of bringing fruition brotherhood, joy and life? Where hope flaws, it can only fold up on itself, sad and dead!

As Christians, we could be tempted to allow ourselves to be imbued by the gloomy ambient where it is made to believe that nothing works and that one must be careful with all and sundry! Even sometimes, either by our longing for easy life or under the weight of the test of the time, we are tempted to succumb to this temptation. May our hearts be opened then to the hope that God offer to men (humanity) on the night of Christmas: *"I am bringing good news of great joy **for all people**: to you is born this day in the city of David a **saviour**, who is Christ the Lord"* (Luke 2, 10-11)

This hope enables us to rise and... walk! We do not ignore the challenges in our country or the paths sometimes abrupt and steep of our daily lives, be it in the family, at work, with neighbours or in the neighbourhood, the hope offered by the Infant child in the crib (crèche) permits us, day after day, to spread out the power and the truth of the Gospel!

To each and every one of you, to your families and Christian communities, I wish you a Merry Christmas!

+ Pascal Delannoy
The Bishop of the Diocese of Saint Denis in France