

Christmas Message 2025

My dearest brothers and sisters, Cooperators throughout the world,

I write to you with a heart full of joy and hope as we approach the Holy Christmas. In this very special time, my thoughts go to each of you, to your families, to your communities. Christmas is the feast of God's closeness, and never more than today do we feel the need for this closeness and to make ourselves bearers of His peace. We look at the world and see so many shadows, so many wars, so much suffering. It is a reality that wounds us and challenges us.

Yet, it is precisely in this wounded world that we have a word to say, a light to carry. I think of our vocation, of that Project of Apostolic Life that we love so much, and how it shows us a very clear path: that of the Beatitudes. These are not distant words, but a way of life that asks us to be meek, to hunger and thirst for justice, to be merciful and, above all, to be "peacemakers". Our Statute reminds us forcefully: we are called to a "firm will to be builders of peace".

This year, our Christmas has a special light, that of the Jubilee we are about to conclude. We have been "Pilgrims of Hope". It was not just a slogan, but a profound experience that has renewed us. And hope, for us Christians, has a face: that of Jesus. It is this hope that must move us, that must make us tireless "artisans of peace", as Pope Francis asks us.

But where do we begin? Let us begin with our small world, with the everyday. Let us begin with our Local Centers. I like to imagine them as true "oases of hope" in the desert of so much indifference. May our communities be places where anyone can find an open door, a smile, a sincere listening ear. Where we learn, day by day, to overcome misunderstandings through dialogue, to build bridges and not walls, to live that spirit of family that Don Bosco left us as a precious heritage.

Dear ones, this is my wish for you. May the Child Jesus, who is born poor among the poor, find us ready to welcome Him in our brothers and sisters and give us the creativity and courage to be credible witnesses of His Gospel of peace.

To you, to your families, to all the people you carry in your hearts, I send my most sincere wishes for a Holy Christmas and a new year full of that peace which only the Lord can give.

With great affection, yours in the Lord,

Antonio Boccia *World Coordinator*