

Dear Rev. Fathers and Brothers,

*Wish you the joy of the First Christmas and the grace for a creative Year of Hope!*

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for ALL the people."(Luke 2:10)

The Lord is Emmanuel and He is for ALL and so is the manger!  
Manger is accessible to ALL: To a carrying woman, a naked babe, a carpenter, the illiterate and the poor shepherds, the wise and the rich magi, the sheep and the cattle, the grass and the star.



The manger had no walls, no closed gates, no gate (inn) keeper, no entrance test, no need of undue influence and no fees of entry.

Is my house an inn for a few or a manger for ALL? Am I an innkeeper to close the door or a manger to welcome ALL?

"Come to me, ALL who labor and are heavy laden" (Matthew 11:28) "Come to me, ALL who are thirsty" (John 7:37) Christmas is making me accessible to ALL like the Lord and the manger.

The Lord tells you "Do not be afraid". So is the manger...ALL are comfortable in the manger. The King frightens. The Lord comforts. Are the ordinary comfortable in my presence? They lost the star when they entered the palace of Herod.

Let us leave the abode of Herod and go to Bethlehem and see the BABE crying in the manger.

Like our beloved founder, let us long to see the heavenly beauty of the babe in the manger! And again and again let us see HIM amidst THEM!

Fr. Paul Achandy CMI

Prior General