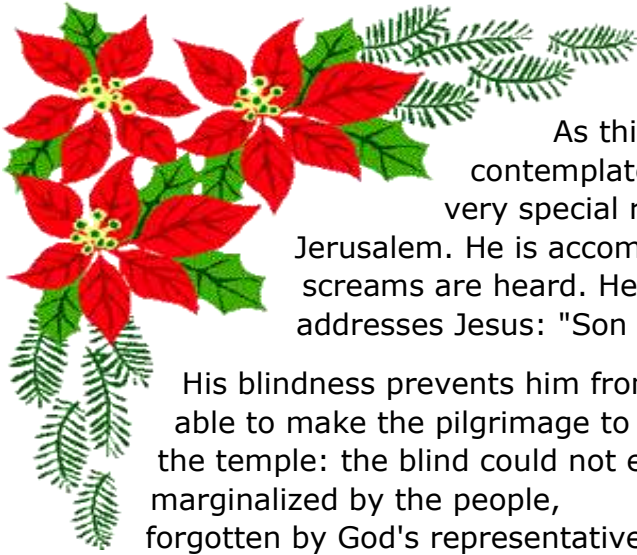


## Christmas Message 2021



Dear friends:

As this year is ending, that passage that we have contemplated in the Gospel has remained in my heart, with a very special resonance: when Jesus leaves Jericho on his way to Jerusalem. He is accompanied by his disciples and more people. Suddenly screams are heard. He is a blind beggar who, from the side of the road, addresses Jesus: "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Mark 10, 46-52

His blindness prevents him from enjoying life like everyone else. He will never be able to make the pilgrimage to Jerusalem. In addition, they would close the doors of the temple: the blind could not enter the sacred precinct. Excluded from life, marginalized by the people, forgotten by God's representatives, he only has to ask Jesus for compassion.

His disciples and followers are irritated. Those screams interrupt his calm march towards Jerusalem. They cannot listen to the words of Jesus with peace. That poor annoying. You have to silence his cries: That is why many scolded him to shut up.

Let's stop at Jesus' reaction, which is very different. He cannot follow his path while ignoring the suffering of that man. He stops, makes the whole group stand up and asks them to call the blind man. His followers cannot walk after him without hearing the calls of those who suffer.

Jesus knows that those who suffer are always at the center of the gaze of his Father, his God. That is why he welcomes them and focuses on them in a preferential way. His life is, first of all, for those mistreated by life or by injustices: those condemned to live many times without hope.

I want to thank so many people who, like all of you, understand that following Jesus is stopping and listening to those who suffer.

Thank you very much for showing up with your support and prayers. Many battered people continue to approach the *Santa Teresita Assistance Complex* in the Tarahumara Mission seeking some kind of support. Thank you for allowing us to reach out and help these people. These people are on our way. We can find them at any time. Very close to us or further away. They ask for help and compassion. Thank you for continuing to be present and being part of the group of people who stop before those who suffer and ask: **what do you want me to do for you?**

May the God of life fill your families and projects with blessings this Christmas.

Sincerely,

Fr. Miguel Quintanilla S.J.

