

New Year's Message

To the Brothers of the Fraternity in the Americas

As the year 2024 comes to a close, it is time to look at what we have experienced and how we have lived it, to correct what has not worked and to plan a better way of living, to be happy, to bear witness to our faith and to collaborate in the construction of a just and fraternal world.

Some questions to ask ourselves: Have we spent our lives making a new world happen, where the project of love, peace and justice that our beloved brother Jesus asks of us prevails? Have we collaborated faithfully in the organization, participation and dynamism of our fraternities, spread throughout the various countries of our beloved America? Have we been in solidarity with the presbyters who are in our local fraternity, and with the presbytery of which we are a part? Each one will make his own assessment.

In his New Year's message, Pope Francis places us in the context of the Jubilee of Hope 2025. He helps us to look at our world, which is so chaotic at this time: wars, hatred, indoctrinated ideologies, injustices of all kinds, which make our hearts ache; but he reminds us that if we ignore our intimate friendship and connection with the Father, we can tolerate a dulling of our conscience, beginning to consider this situation normal and *“to nurture a thought that relationships with others can be governed by the logic of exploitation, in which the strongest claims to have the right to prevail over the weakest”* (cf. Pope Francis, 58th World Day of Peace, 2025). This is not evangelical.

Therefore, we are invited to listen to the sound of the trumpet that arises amidst the desperate cries for help and that *“God never fails to listen”* (cf. Pope Francis, 58th World Day of Peace, 2025). Yes, we are all called to hope. We are all called to be bearers of that hope which comes from the *“mercy of God”* and which never disappoints. This hope *“is superabundant in generosity, it is not calculating, it does not look at the accounts of debtors, it is not concerned with its own profit, but has one sole purpose: to raise up the fallen, to heal the brokenhearted, to free from every form of slavery”* (cf. Pope Francis, 58th World Day of Peace, 2025).

Brothers, for the sake of Jesus and the Gospel, as Brother Charles de Foucauld taught us, it is imperative that we live both an intimate friendship with our Beloved and an apostolate of goodness in the place where we are. However, this cry of so many desperate people invites us to join our voice to the prophetic voice that denounces so many situations of exploitation and oppression of others, so many situations that leave our brothers and sisters fallen on the existential peripheries of life. Let us listen!

Let us not be afraid, but let us be pilgrims of hope every day of this new year of 2025 that is approaching, and is already here.

Happy New Year to all.

On behalf of the Pan American Team, a big hug.

Father Carlos Roberto dos Santos

Continental Manager

