

## CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM CARDINAL MAIDA

“About 150 years ago, the English author, Charles Dickens, wrote a famous novel entitled A Tale of Two Cities. It begins with the classic lines, *‘It was the best of times and the worst of times...’* These words could well describe the year 2001 and prospects for the new year of 2002: times of promise and opportunity, and yet, times of great suffering, fear, and anxiety.

“The September 11 terrorist attack on our nation unleashed a whole sequence of events that have touched and changed almost every part of our lives. Now, more than ever, we worry about our safety and our jobs, and most of us look to the future with eyes of fear. From a strictly worldly perspective, it seems to be a rather dark time in human history, given all the violence and warfare, and the tragic division between people of different ethnic and racial origins.

“And yet, from the perspective of faith, no matter how dark the night, the light of God’s presence and love still shines brightly. From the perspective of faith, as we live through dark times, we come to recognize our complete dependence on God, the source, the only true source of lasting light. And so, the words from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah ring true this year more than ever: *‘The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light: upon those who dwelt in a land of gloom, a light has shown... Every boot that tramped in battle, every cloak rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for flames, for a child is born to us, a son is given to us, upon his shoulder dominion rests and they name him Prince of Peace...’*

“In communion with our Christian brothers and sisters throughout the world, this Christmas we celebrate the dawn of a new way of living, the beginning of our salvation, a story that is always and everywhere *good news*. Although the times may be challenging, the news is always good. Although the times are uncertain, our faith gives us conviction and confidence in the ultimate fulfillment of all that we celebrate here. Yes, one day, we will be one family with the Lord, celebrating a Christmas without end. For now, let us continue on our pilgrim way asking God’s mercy and promising to live in peace and reconciliation with one another until the day we attain the fullness of the mystery we celebrate this season.

“Come Lord Jesus and make your home with us! Amen.”

Delivered by Cardinal Adam Maida

Mass At Midnight | Holy Redeemer Parish, Detroit  
December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2001