

ARCHDIOCESE OF NYERI



FROM THE ARCHBISHOP'S DESK

My dear Priests, Religious and all Christians,

May Christ the Messiah who has been born in Bethlehem be praised, now and forever!

“After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, suddenly some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east asking, ‘Where is the infant king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.’” (Matthew 2: 1-2)

Our journey as Christians, like the three wise men, is one of searching for the King of Kings, so that we can fall down on our knees to worship Him and acknowledge His reign in our hearts and lives. We are all invited to look at the star of our faith, the star of the Church, and the star of the sacraments that announce where the Messiah and King is. We cannot remain at home in our arguments or old traditions, nor can we follow other stars that today's world is suggesting, of material attractions, greed and false ideologies. We must set out to see the Saviour, who is announced to us!

We have many reasons to give thanks, for the faith we have received. Through the missionaries, our parents, priests, catechists and our brothers and sisters, the marvels of God have been made known to us. We have received the solid faith of the value of prayer, of the importance of every sacrament, of the need for charity and works of mercy, and the necessity of a complete conversion in order to accept God's ways of Christian life and of the ten commandments. Unfortunately, today, we seem to be weakening in our conviction and christian life. But God still invites us, as that child in Bethlehem. Let us hurry again to go to this encounter with Our Lord like the shepherds.

“But you, my dear friends, in spite of what we have just said, we are sure you are in a better state and on the way to salvation.... Our desire is that every one of you should go on showing the same enthusiasm till the ultimate fulfilment of your hope, never growing careless, but taking as your model those who by their faith and perseverance are heirs of the promises.” (Hebrews 6: 10-12)

This year, we wish to follow this star of the Sacraments, especially the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony and the Sacrament of Confession or Penance. I congratulate the many parishes that have put effort in encouraging the Christians to come out and solemnize their marriages. Let us continue to put effort to have many jubilee weddings in all our parishes, as well as many new marriages.

I invite our priests also to make new innovative plans, to facilitate many more Christians to have recourse to the sacrament of penance. Let us see how we can organize confessions whenever there are large gatherings of Christians. We also encourage the providing of good confessionals in all our churches as was suggested in the Diocesan Synod.

Following the many suggestions that came in our Synodal experience, we wish to accompany the families in this very challenging times: those making efforts to keep their love alive, those struggling with all types of difficulties, those preparing for marriage, those who have gone through broken marriages. We wish to strengthen the Catholic men and Catholic women, give hope to the youth and the PMC. But we need to be ready to make the necessary sacrifices so that the Body of Christ can recover her strength.

Two weeks ago, we had the family day celebration, where the leaders of all the parishes came to present the offering and contributions of all the parishes. I wish to thank you all from the bottom of my heart for your great generosity. As the leaders may have told you, we feel proud that our project of the Nyaatha Plaza building in Nyeri town is almost complete. This is because of the contribution of all Christians. Together we will be able to take up good projects to help others after us, especially the very needy in our midst.

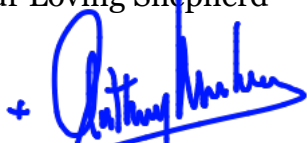
This year, I also give thanks to God for my twenty years of service as a Bishop. From that 10th January 2004, when I was consecrated as a bishop, up to now, I have constantly seen God's Love, the power of His grace and His working. I am sincerely grateful. We will celebrate this anniversary later in the year, with the priestly ordinations. However, I request for your prayers, so that I may always remain a faithful shepherd and servant, as the Lord wishes.

My dear people of God, my dear daughters and sons: We must face the new year, and the challenges the world brings to us with optimism and courage. **“You are the light of the world”**, Christ tells us. We must let Christ's light shine, even in the dark night of today's world. Quietly but effectively, as in the stable in Bethlehem! I appeal to each one, you and I, and to everyone, that we become light in our Country to reject Corruption, by committing not to be involved in any way. This is an appeal to the grassroots, and to every baptized person. We must commit from our doorstep, that we will fight Corruption in my place, in my work and in my life. Baptism gives us the necessary graces. Otherwise, how can we call ourselves Catholic Christians?

Finally my dear Christians, we need to continue to pray for our mother the Church. We ask Mary, Mother of the Church, to continue protecting her from attacks that seek to distort her face. May we remain like Mary, always trusting in God, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Happy New year! I send you my blessings.

Your Loving Shepherd



✠ Anthony Muheria

Archbishop of Nyeri

7th January 2024, Solemnity of Epiphany of the Lord