



December 2011

PEACE !!



JOY !!



LOVE !!



Father Abraham has written this special Christmas message for SOJASI followers...

Dear Friends: PEACE! JOY!! LOVE!!!

So many happy things have happened to me lately that I am already filled with a "Merry Christmas!" feeling. Now I'm wondering if merriness is transferable. I'd be delighted if I could infect you with the merriness I'm now feeling.

On November 21st I celebrated the 57th anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood. In our Society of Jesus we make a big fuss over anyone who gets to celebrate his 50th anniversary and I'm in my 57th year--and still counting! During my anniversary celebrations the happiest time was when I offered Mass with my young people up at SOJASI. In my old age the greatest source of my joy is the wonderful work they are doing with our poor up at our training center.

I suppose all of us want some of the good we've done in life to carry on into the future. Isn't that the reason why grandparents get so much joy out of their grandchildren? They see them as the embodiment, the 'carrying on', of the love they felt for each other many years before in their married life. As I looked at my 'congregation' during Mass, I saw them, now giving their lives to help the poor, as the miserably poor and hungry little children who came to me twenty or thirty years ago. What happier harvest could I have in the twilight of my years seeing them loving the poor as I loved them when they themselves were so poor.



Last evening I 'capped off' my anniversary celebrations by spending it with our children in Cecilia's Morning Star home. I don't know if my 'merriness' is infectious, but I know for sure that their merriness is! The merriness they infect me with is all the more intense because looking into their happy faces, the words of Jesus always echo in my mind: "I was hungry and you gave me something to eat!" There are no words to describe the joy it gives me to see the face of Jesus reflected in the faces of so many once helpless and hungry poor children. In all the world there is no 'grandparent' joy to compare with mine!

And the simple truth is I owe all my present joy to you! Without your generous love for the poor all my years living and working with them, I could not have given them 'something to eat' or have helped them free themselves from their prison of poverty. Seeing my 'grandchildren' loving the poor as I love them, I'm very grateful to you for infecting me with so much merriness this Christmas!

Your Brother in the Christ-Child, Father A. s.j.



Merry Christmas from Morningstar Family!



Merry Christmas from SOJASI !!