



The Holy See

URBI ET ORBI MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE JOHN PAUL II CHRISTMAS 2004

1. *Christus natus est nobis, venite, adoremus!*

Christ is born for us: come, let us adore him!

On this solemn day we come to you,
tender Babe of Bethlehem.

By your birth you have hidden your divinity
in order to share our frail human nature.

In the light of faith, we acknowledge you
as *true God, made man* out of love for us.

You alone are the Redeemer of mankind!2. Before the crib where you lie helpless,
let there be an end to *the spread of violence* in its many forms,
the source of untold suffering;

let there be an end to the numerous *situations of unrest*
which risk degenerating into open conflict;

let there arise a firm will to *seek peaceful solutions*,

respectful of the legitimate aspirations of individuals and peoples.3. Babe of Bethlehem, Prophet of peace,
encourage attempts to promote *dialogue* and *reconciliation*,
sustain the *efforts to build peace*,

which hesitantly, yet not without hope, are being made
to bring about a more tranquil present and future
for so many of our brothers and sisters in the world.

I think of Africa, of the tragedy of Darfur in Sudan,
of Côte d'Ivoire and of the Great Lakes Region.

With great apprehension I follow the situation in Iraq.

And how can I fail to look with anxious concern,
but also invincible confidence,

towards that Land of which you are a son?4. *Everywhere peace is needed!*

You, Prince of true peace,
help us to understand that the only way to build peace
is to flee in horror from evil,
and to pursue goodness with courage and perseverance.
Men and women of good will, of every people on the earth,
come with trust to the crib of the Saviour!
"He who bestows the Kingdom of heaven
does not take away human kingdoms" (cf. *Hymn for Vespers of Epiphany*).
Hasten to meet him;
he comes to teach us
the way of truth, peace and love.