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Photo: Pilgrimage to Lourdes and Fatima by Fr. Carl Chudy, sx



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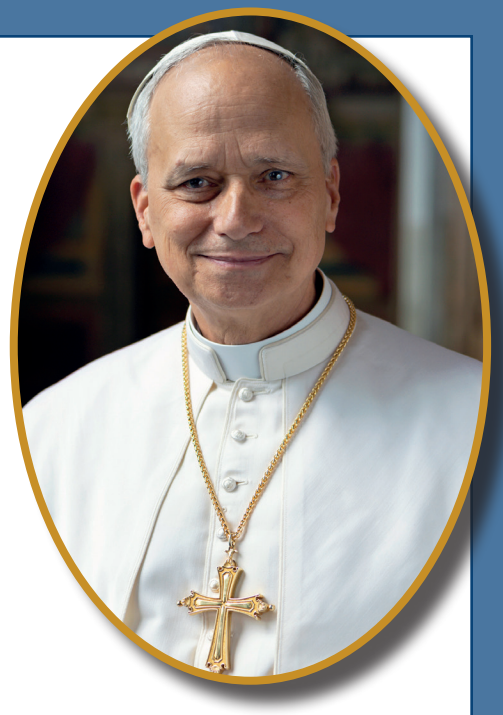
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One in Christ, United In Mission



Excerpt from the MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE LEO XIV FOR THE 100th WORLD MISSION DAY 2026

Dear brothers and sisters,

For World Mission Day 2026, which marks the centenary of a celebration established by Pius XI that is very dear to the Church, I have chosen the theme "One in Christ, united in mission." Following the Jubilee Year, I wish to encourage the whole Church to continue its missionary journey with joy and zeal in the Holy Spirit.

As we reflect on being one in Christ and united in mission, let us allow ourselves to be guided and inspired by divine grace, "to renew in ourselves the fire of our missionary vocation" and advance together in the commitment to evangelization, in this "new missionary age" in the history of the Church.

One in Christ – Missionary disciples united in him and with our brothers and sisters

The mystery of union with Christ lies at the heart of mission. Before his Passion, Jesus prayed to the Father, "that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us" (Jn 17:21). These words reveal Jesus' deepest desire, as well as the identity of the Church as a community of his disciples.

...[T]he Church's primary missionary responsibility is to renew and sustain spiritual and fraternal unity among its members. In many situations, we encounter conflicts, polarization, misunderstandings and a lack of mutual trust. When this occurs even within our communities, it undermines our witness. The evangelizing mission that Christ entrusted to his disciples requires, above all, hearts that are reconciled and eager for communion.

Being "one in Christ" calls us to keep our gaze fixed on the Lord, so that he may truly be at the center of our lives and communities, the center of every word, action and interpersonal relationship, leading us to say with amazement: "It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me" (Gal 2:20). .. Today, the Church is called to take up the fundamental themes of the Second Vatican Council and the subsequent Papal Magisterium, in particular that of Pope Francis. In fact, as Saint Paul says, "we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord" (2 Cor 4:5). ... This process of genuine evangelization begins in the heart of every Christian in order to reach all of humanity.

United in mission – That the world may believe in Christ the Lord

The unity of disciples is not an end in itself; it is directed towards mission. Jesus states this clearly: "So that the world may believe that you have sent me" (Jn 17:21). It is through the witness of a reconciled, fraternal and united community that the proclamation of the Gospel acquires its full communicative power.

...I would like to express my special gratitude to today's ad gentes missionaries. Like Saint Francis Xavier, they have left their homeland, their families and all sense of security in order to proclaim the Gospel and bring Christ and his love to places that are often challenging, poor, conflict-ridden or culturally distant. Despite adversity and human limitations, they continue to give themselves joyfully, because they know that Christ himself, and his Gospel, are the greatest treasures we can offer. Through their perseverance, they demonstrate that God's love transcends all barriers. The world still needs these courageous witnesses of Christ, and ecclesial communities still need new missionary vocations. We must always keep them close to our hearts and continually pray to the Father for them. May he grant us the gift of young people and adults who are willing to leave everything behind to follow Christ on the path of evangelization even to the ends of the earth! ***Read the entire Message at*** ***https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/messages/mission/documents/20260125-giornata-missionaria.html***

The Small Seed of the Mission in Morocco

"If we were not here, there would be no Church here."

By Raffaele Esposito

The missionary experience in Morocco teaches that mission does not necessarily coincide with doing great things.

Morocco is an almost entirely Muslim country: proselytism — that is, the activity of persuading someone to change religion — is forbidden by law, and Christians are very few in number, made up largely of foreigners. In such a context it may seem that the Church has little chance of bearing fruit.

And yet a missionary sister, when asked what they did in Morocco and why they were there, gave this answer: "If we were not here, even simply by being present, there would be no Church here." The sentence sums up the meaning of the experience: being there, praying, building relationships of respect, trust and fraternity is already an authentic form of mission.

A Eucharist Celebrated in a Muslim Home

A concrete sign of this presence was the celebration of the Eucharist in a small chapel preserved inside a house now inhabited by a Muslim family. The house had once been lived in by the sisters, who then had to leave it for lack of strength: the religious had become too few and too elderly to remain. The family living there, however, has kept the chapel and still allows Christians who visit that mountain place to use it.

We celebrated sitting on the ground on carpets, using a tiny low table as an altar. It was deeply meaningful to celebrate the Eucharist precisely in a Muslim home: a Christian space cared for by people who are not Christian.

The Nativity Scene That Transformed a Wound

In a chapel the sisters used to prepare a nativity scene every Christmas and invite local people to contemplate it. A boy stayed for an hour in front of the scene of Jesus born in a cave: in that utterly poor birth he recognized something of his own story, of which he was ashamed. The nativity scene had thus turned a wound into an occasion of encounter and hope.

Fatima Zahra: A Sorrow That Became a Vocation

I met the same dynamic in Fatima Zahra, a Muslim woman who never married and who suffered because of it, especially in a society in which marriage represents a great form of human fulfilment.

After coming to know the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, a congregation of sisters that organized summer camps for children and young people from semi-nomadic families, she discovered that a woman could choose a different life, dedicated to service. The pain of not having found a husband was thus transformed into a vocation, even while she remained Muslim. Today Fatima Zahra continues with great dedication the work of the sisters, who are no longer present in that place. How beautiful her generosity is!

With the Children: Games, Songs and a "Thank You"

With the children we experienced a simple and immediate form of encounter: games, songs, shared water, hugs and smiles. They asked us to repeat the little songs and games we had taught them, and they gradually grew fond of us.

I was particularly struck by the "shukran" — "thank you" in Arabic — of a child to whom I had given water, and by the gentleness of the smallest girls, who tried to communicate with gestures.

Daily Life: Poverty and Hospitality

Daily life brought us face to face with a reality very different from our own: precarious hygienic conditions, simple houses, animals roaming freely, meals shared from the same plate, and essential services that are often very poor. And yet we found a great capacity for welcome. Every day we were offered tea, biscuits, peanuts and more.

In the poorest houses and villages we saw a life based mainly on livestock and farming, while in the cities a more modern reality emerged. This distance between the different contexts brought out how great the cultural, educational, hygienic, relational and ecological needs are from which a missionary project could begin.

A Night in the Tent of the Nomadic Shepherds

Among the most intense moments was the experience in the tent of a family of nomadic shepherds. After about an hour's walk we reached a mountainous area where small family groups lived with their animals. A woman welcomed us with tea, bread and jam, despite her poverty. A storm of wind and rain then forced us to stay in the tent. All we could hear were the cries of the goats, the wind and the rain, until silence came. That poverty and that solitude had something deeply spiritual about them.

At the Heart of the Migration Crisis

The second part of the journey took us to the places that in those days were at the center of the world news. In Fnideq, a Moroccan town a few kilometers from Ceuta — a Spanish enclave in northern Morocco and therefore a gateway to Europe — migration stopped being a news story and became a reality made of faces and stories.

We met a woman whose four out of five children had emigrated to Ceuta and who had lived through the most critical moments of the crisis with apprehension. In this way we



saw that behind the word “migrant” there are families, mothers, children and people with concrete desires and sufferings.

The Mirage Told by Social Media

We also came to understand the powerful role of social networks, capable of showing the wealthy world as a promised land and of feeding desires that do not always correspond to reality. Those who leave may find themselves in conditions very different from the ones they imagined and may at times end up pretending on social media that they are doing well, thus in turn feeding the desire to leave in those who have stayed behind.

In this context we met wounded migrants and brought clothing and necessary goods. The Church can offer a concrete response through charity, without turning it into proselytism: welcoming, caring for, accompanying and defending the dignity of the person.

Praying Beside the Sufis

The encounter with the Sufis — Muslims who belong to the mystical tradition of Islam, that gives priority to interior prayer and the direct experience of God — and the prayer for peace also helped me understand that mission passes through the recognition of the good present in the other.

A priest who lived and died in Morocco was convinced that every person was in some way already “Christified," that is, already touched by Christ and by his salvation, because Christ died for each one. Entering a mosque while a Muslim was praying, it came spontaneously to me to pray the Our Father inwardly. In this way I sensed that Christian faith did not prevent me from recognizing the other's search for God, but invited me to grasp the similarities.

Jesus in Islam: A Door to Dialogue

The Muslim understanding of Christ also helped me grasp the importance of dialogue. For Muslims, Jesus is alive and was taken up by God into heaven; Christians, Muslims and Jews moreover share, albeit in different ways, the expectation of the Messiah. In such a context dialogue requires above all respect, listening and the ability to build relationships.

Sowing Without Expecting to See the Tree

What remains is the image of the small seed: a child saying “shukran," a Muslim woman who turns suffering into a vocation, a family that safeguards a Christian chapel, a tea offered in a very poor tent, a prayer shared with people of another religion.

They are small signs, yet capable of revealing something far greater. Mission, perhaps, consists precisely in sowing without expecting to see the tree immediately. It is up to us to be there, to pray, to love and to bear witness; it will then be the Holy Spirit, in God's time, who makes the seed grow.

Rafaelle Esposito (on the right in the photo below) is a member of the young missionary animators of the Diocese of Cava de' Tirreni. A musician and composer, he participated in the 2021 international sacred music composition in Madrid.





Thank you all for the help , love , laughter and tears shared in such beautiful and blessed places in the world. Will be forever grateful to have spent time with all of you and our Blessed Mother. ~Elena

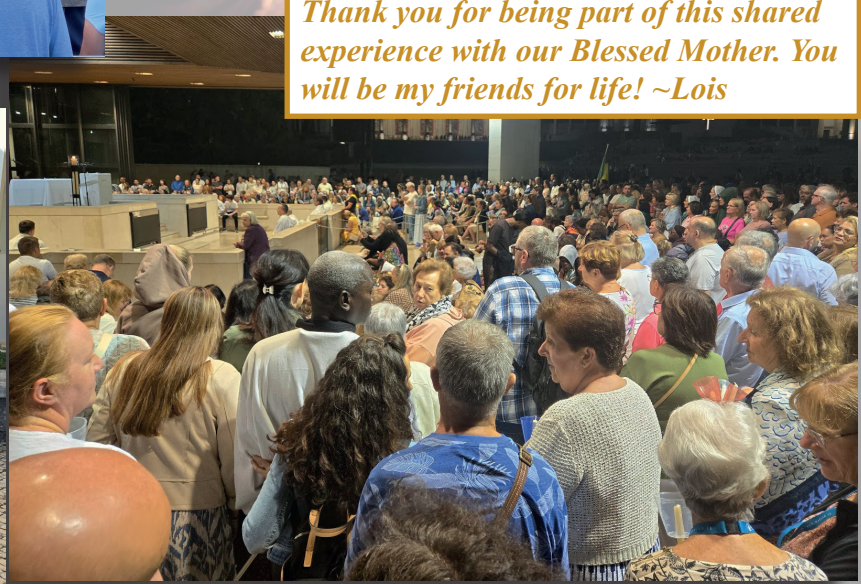
We will carry these memories in our hearts! God bless everyone! ~Gustavo and Marta



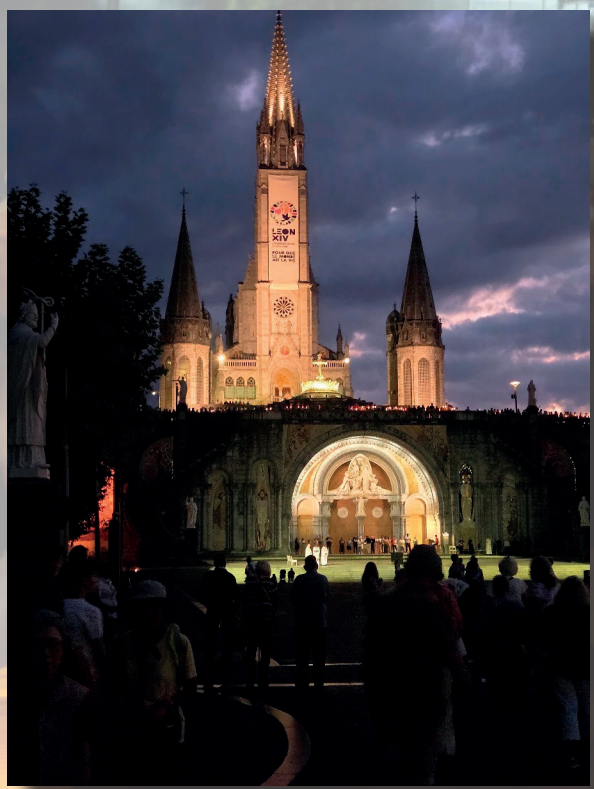


Thank you for being part of this shared experience with our Blessed Mother. You will be my friends for life! ~Lois





PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES, FRANCE AND FATIMA, PORTUGAL







Pictures provided by Fr. Carl Chudy, sx and Christina Ciola. See more on Google Photos. Quotes are from the Pilgrimage WhatsApp Group.

We began our Pilgrimage as individuals and ended as a family in faith. With a very grateful heart. ~Cathy



The Xaverian Charismatic Family

Fr. Alessandro Brai , sx



Fr. Alessandro is in the center first row of the photo in the red shirt.

I believe it is now a conviction shared by all consecrated Xaverian men and women that the Xaverian charism is not the "heritage" of the consecrated alone. With the canonization of Saint Conforti, the certainty is that the Xaverian charism can be embraced and lived by many people in many ways. The message of Saint Guido and his life still speak today and can influence the spiritual journey of those who make mission a life choice.

Adapting the charisma for everyone

How can Saint Conforti's dream of making the world one single family come true, starting with those who, in one way or another, have come into contact with the Xaverian charism? How can we make friends, relatives, benefactors, collaborators, volunteers, and acquaintances of the Xaverian world feel they are an effective and active part of the Xaverian family?

The answer probably comes to us from the many movements, where priests, consecrated persons and laypeople come together united by a single charism. The Xaverian charismatic family should be regarded as a great movement. This is not about "transforming ourselves" or imposing a system that did not originate as a movement and cannot become one. Rather, it is about looking at these movements to understand what elements hold together, in so many cases, thousands upon thousands of people who find themselves united in a spirituality, in a charism.

Among Xaverian men and women we have many "experts" in missiology and in the Founder, who can help us identify the Xaverian principles shared by all. The task is to outline the main elements that, above all, help us feel part of the same Xaverian family, even without living in community, or that help us to "live in mission" even without leaving for our whole life in another country. It is not a matter of revising our charism or imagining a new one, but of taking from our charism those foundations which can unite and create communion among those who love the Xaverian charism. Many of us have had the chance to talk with laypeople who have read Conforti and who have seen, in what he wrote and lived, a source of inspiration for their journey of faith and missionary commitment.

Common prayers and events

Prayer is certainly the element that, among many others, creates communion, community and unity. Xaverian prayers are unique and have characterized Xaverians since the beginning, because they are based on the Gospel and on Conforti. Why not propose them as prayers for the whole Xaverian charismatic family? Of course, it may be necessary to revise the language, so that it is more direct and clear to those who recite it. Praying them together, even at a distance, creates union and makes members feel part of a great reality that embraces the 4 continents where we are present. In some places these prayers are already prayed together with the laypeople who take part in adoration, but in many cases they experience these prayers more as spectators, without feeling fully involved.

Centrality of the Word of God

Here too, the task is to identify the biblical passages that can become reference points and central to our being part of the Xaverian charismatic family. There are biblical images that can help us identify ourselves and that become like slogans. Some of these images are already clear to all of us who have consecrated ourselves to the mission in the Xaverian family, but not to all the laypeople who know us and who wish to walk with us in a more engaged way.

Thursday adoration

Thursday Eucharistic adoration is a good habit for Xaverians. It could also become a ritual to be practiced consistently by the members of the Xaverian charismatic family. At the same moment, across the different time zones, the Xaverian charismatic family throughout the world stops in silence before the Blessed Sacrament. Laypeople, like consecrated persons, need this special moment to be lived with God and in communion with brothers and sisters.

Main Xaverian feast days

During the year it is good to highlight the most important dates – that lie at the origin of the Xaverian charism or that represent an important moment in the journey of the Xaverian family (Conforti, Bottego, Martyrs of the Fraternity).

Shared mission

One element that is clear for the Xaverian world is mission as departure. Departure is, for us, a characterizing element of the charism willed by Conforti. This is what distinguishes us and has accompanied us since the origins of the Xaverian family. Laypeople too, according to their own timing and ways, have the possibility of living mission as departure. There are many examples of families, young people, and retired elderly people who have spent more or less long periods in our missions. Today the phenomenon of young people who wish to live mission as departures for months and years, dedicating their time, energy and abilities to the mission, is very strong.

Here too it is a matter of seeing how even those who cannot leave for reasons of age, work, family, etc. can always feel part of the mission as departure. The slogan that became familiar among many Xaverians is “I am leaving, don't you stay behind.” That is to say, even those who do not leave with us take part in our same mission, through the same shared charism, prayer, affection, support for projects, and collaboration in many ways. The many laypeople who have breathed in the Xaverian charism feel the desire to be part of this kind of mission, even when, for objective reasons, departure is not possible.

Speaking of the Xaverian charismatic family may be seen by some as a threat to consecrated life, or as a resignation to the fact that, especially in the West, the choice of consecrated life no longer seems to attract people. I believe instead that the Xaverian charismatic family is an additional element that can help revitalize consecrated life. The Xaverian charism will always need consecrated persons who make a total gift of their life to the mission within the Xaverian family. The presence of laypeople is another way of living the charism, one that takes nothing away from consecrated life but accompanies it, in a spirit of sharing.



To learn more about the "Group of Xaverian Friends - Gruppo di Amici Saveriani (GAMS)," visit https://saveriani.it/chi-siamo/network/gams

WORLD MISSION NEWS
"Making of the World One Family..."

Priests Against Genocide



"As priests, we have prayed and given a voice to the Palestinian people," the network's promoters explain. "Christ himself identifies with all who suffer and die unjustly. And it is there that, once again, he is crucified."

For the network, the anniversary was not a celebration but a new beginning. The commitment is to continue praying, bearing witness and denouncing until the weapons fall silent.

Fr. Pietro Rosinni, sx

ROME – One year after the network was founded, its numbers have grown. On Tuesday, 22 September 2026, over 150 priests from 8 countries gathered in Rome for the first anniversary of Priests Against Genocide, the international network of priests founded on 22 September 2025 to give a voice to the Palestinian people and to denounce complicity in the war in Gaza.

Alongside the Italian priests were priests from the United States, Spain, the United Kingdom, Ireland, France and Germany. The one who travelled farthest came from South Africa. It is the sign of a network that in twelve months has crossed national borders and taken root in many local Churches. Today the network counts over 2,600 members from 58 countries, including 25 bishops and 3 cardinals.

The day opened in the morning with a time of shared reflection on the work carried out during the year. At the heart of the meeting were the testimonies of priests who had returned from a pilgrimage to Palestine and who told their fellow priests what they had seen with their own eyes.

After the meeting, the participants wrote by hand, on a large shroud, the names of over 330 Palestinian and Lebanese children killed during the cease-fire. Each name is a life cut short, taken back from the statistics and restored to memory.

The shroud was carried in procession through the streets of Rome, with symbolic stops in front of the Vatican, the Embassy of Palestine and the Embassy of Lebanon. The march ended in front of the headquarters of Leonardo S.P.A., the Italian company that produces weapons and components supplied to Israel with taxpayers' money.

"These very weapons produced in this building have contributed to the deaths of over 20,000 children in Gaza from 2023 to today," said Father Pietro Rossini, Xaverian Missionary and spokesperson for the network.



USA NEWS

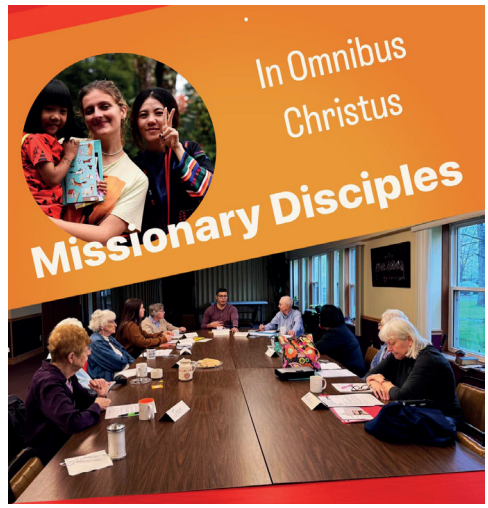
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Xaverian Family

"Missionary Disciples: The Xaverian Way," shares the basics of who is a Lay Xaverian, and how the Xaverian charism has guided people through their lives. Lay Xaverians are an integral part of Xavier Knoll. Email Fr. Alex for more information. fralex@xaverianmissionaries.org

Thank You!

In this season of Thanksgiving, Peace, Love and Joy, the Xaverian Missionaries express our immense gratitude to our friends and benefactors for your sustained support and solidarity!



OUR LADY OF FATIMA SHRINE, HOLLISTON , MA

Christmas Season

Come to Fatima Shrine from December 10 - 27 to experience the Festival of Lights. Celebrate the presence of the Xaverian Missionary Sisters in the US at 11:30 AM after Mass on December 10. Visit the Fatima Shrine website for updates on Holiday festivities.



Fatima Shrine Featured in Travel Guide

"A quiet escape is waiting in Massachusetts, with leafy trails, giant stones, and plenty of room to slow down. Wander the paved paths, stretch your legs, and give yourself a reason to smile. But why are sixty huge boulders linked by heavy chains? Each one carries words in a different language, creating a playful trail of messages from around the world..." See more at https://takingthekids.com/this-peaceful-massachusetts-shrine-has-a-giant-rosary-you-can-walk-around-for-free-40fdd3d8/

Harvest of Faith

The Filipino Community at Fatima Shrine celebrated its 1st Anniversary on September 20. They wrote on their Facebook page:

> "One community brought together by faith, friendship, and a shared desire to be an ambassador of Christ. Our ministry is not tied to any one individual, but to a growing family united beneath the loving cloak of Our Lady of Fatima. To our first Filipino pastor, Rev. Fr. Joeven Matugas, SX, may you continue to shepherd our community with faith, wisdom, and a joyful heart... To all of us, may we celebrate many more years of serving Christ as a Catholic Filipino ministry in the South MetroWest area! Thank you to everyone who celebrated this special occasion with us."

Shrine liturgies and activities

- SUNDAY MASS | Shrine Church: 10:00 AM – English Mass; 1:00 PM – Filipino Mass
- Saturday Mass: 10 AM – Shrine Church : Confessions: 3 - 4 PM in the Church
- Weekday Mass (Mon-Fri): 7:30 AM – Conforti Chapel
- Holy Hour and Benediction every Thursday at 5 PM in Conforti Chapel
- Lectio Divina every Tuesday at 10:30 AM in the conference room in the office area lobby.
- Pax Christi on the second Friday of each month from 4:00 - 5:30 PM in the 'Upper Room' in the Office/Residence building



Help the Xaverian Missionaries continue to "make of the world one family." Either clip this paper and send it to the address below or help the environment by donating online at: https://www.xaverianmissionaries.org/support/

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The Xaverian Missionaries wish everyone a Blessed Holiday Season filled with Faith, Hope and Love, and a Happy New Year!

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