

Sunday 20th December 2020

My dear brothers sisters,

I hope that you have had a blessed and productive week and that your preparations for Christmas are fully underway.

As I wander around the local community, I can see that life has picked up speed. It is especially heart-warming to see so many people laughing and smiling in the anticipation of Christmas.

As we enter into our final week of advent, we light our fourth candle representing 'peace and purity'. These words in itself symbolise calmness and tranquillity. As I was writing to you, I found myself casting my mind back to places in the world that I had travelled to and countries that I had lived in. I dwelt on that for a while appreciating just what a wonderful world we have from its food, culture, diversity, seasons, languages, landscape and so much more. So it comes as no surprise that I researched the seven wonders of the world and stumbled across this following passage!

A group of American school children were asked to list what they thought were the present "Seven Wonders Of The World." Though there were some disagreements, the following received the most votes:

Egypt's Great Pyramids
Taj Mahal
Grand Canyon
Panama Canal
Empire State Building
St. Peter's Basilica
Great Wall of China

While gathering the votes, the teacher noted that one student had not finished her paper yet. So she asked the girl if she was having trouble with her list. The little girl replied, "Yes, a little. I couldn't quite make up my mind because there are so many." The teacher said, "Well, tell us what you have, and maybe we can help." The girl hesitated, then read, "I think the "Seven Wonders Of The World" are:

To see
To hear
To touch
To taste
To feel
To laugh
To love

The room was so quiet you could hear a pin drop. The things we overlook as simple and ordinary and that we take for granted are truly wondrous. A gentle reminder - that the most precious things in life cannot be built by hand or bought by man.

I must admit, I was blown away by this, not because I don't value these things already but because they came from the heart of a child. There is an important lesson here, we are all children in the eyes of God. Let us become that little child again...

Wherever we are, whatever we are doing, let us use this time between now and Christmas to identify the seven wonders of our world. Let us make a note of this and keep it safe, and let this be our Christmas present to the ones we love!

As I sign off for this week, I pray you have a blessed new week ahead and that you accomplish everything in you heart. You and your families are in my prayers always.

Yours Rev Fr Nicholas