

The World's Gospel and the True Hope of Christ

My Dear Friends,

May the peace of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the comfort of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the strength of the Holy Spirit be with you always.

We live in a world full of voices—through media, culture, and even our own thoughts—that tell us:

- “You are the center.”
- “Your truth is your reality.”
- “Happiness is what you decide.”

This is the world's “gospel.” It promises freedom but often leaves us restless and empty. We were not created to save ourselves or to be our own gods.

Christ offers a different way:

- Where the world says, “Rely only on yourself,” Jesus says, “Come to Me, and I will give you rest.”
- Where the world says, “Live your truth,” Jesus says, “I am the Truth.”
- Where the world says, “Invent yourself,” Jesus reminds us, “I created you, and I love you.”

In the Church we receive truth. In the sacraments we receive grace. In the Eucharist we receive strength. Under the mantle of Our Lady of Grace, we find protection and guidance.

As William of Saint-Thierry teaches, salvation is God's act of love. Christ's death on the Cross is God's invitation to respond in love, freely and fully. The Holy Spirit continues this work, drawing us closer to God and sustaining us in faith.

Practical Steps:

- Attend Mass and receive the sacraments.
- Pray the Rosary.
- Support one another in faith and charity.

This year, let Christ—not the world—shape your heart. May Our Lady of Grace lead you ever closer to her Son, and may the Lord bless you with deeper faith and wisdom to discern His Truth.

Fr. Vilaire Philius