

## CCSJ says: “Let’s Parang the right houses this Christmas!”

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PRESS RELEASE

During this Advent season, as we await the birth of Jesus, God’s gift to humanity, the Catholic Commission for Social Justice reminds everyone that Christ came to “Parang” every house – including those who, for one reason or another, call the streets their home. Let the image of Lazarus, waiting at our gates for crumbs to fall from our tables, spur us to act if we are to fulfill God’s plan of love.

The Christmas season is a time when we all think of giving to others. Research shows that giving makes people happy. As Maya Angelou said: “I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver.” While the act of “giving” is not all that is required to transform society, it is an essential component of a just society.

Let us give, not because we expect anything in return, but because we recognise our duty to share the many gifts that God has bestowed upon us in TT. Indeed, all that we have is “gift” from God. There are many in our communities who are without basic amenities.

In a world in which individualism and selfishness are rampant, too often we walk on the other side of the road and ignore the plight of our brothers and sisters in need. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child, let us open our hearts and reach out to the poor and needy, the lonely, the homeless and the disadvantaged. Mahatma Gandhi rightly said: “The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”

CCSJ prays that Jesus, who came into our world as a poor child born in a stable, will empower us all to be caring/compassionate. It is together that we will develop a culture of generosity in TT/the world. It is together that we will heal our broken communities. Let us pray also for those suffering because of ongoing wars, conflict, and persecution in our world. “May Christ’s redeeming strength transform arms into

ploughshares, destruction into creativity, hatred into love and tenderness” (Pope Francis).