



SAINT PIUS V PARISH

1919 SOUTH ASHLAND AVENUE
CHICAGO, IL 60608

December 12, 2023

Dear Mr. Bautista,

I remember the excitement that surrounded Christmas as a child. Many parts went into making up the whole of the celebration of what for us, as children, was the greatest day of the year. Long before the actual day we would sit about making our lists of things that we wanted to find under the tree. As members of a vibrant church community my brother and sisters and I had pageant, choir and altar server practices to attend. When the momentous day finally arrived, we would wake up, our nostrils filled with the aromas of Christmas, a turkey in the oven, Christmas deserts being made ready, and we would rush downstairs to see and feel the best the holiday had to offer. We had so much, there was the warmth of love, the filled bellies, the joy of gifts and play. We had everything we needed and more.

I am painfully aware that many families do not have the resources to provide for the making of their own unique family traditions surrounding this holiday. For many there are no gifts to be given or received, there is a lack of resources for providing special foods for the holiday. We here at St. Pius have seen an increase in the number of families and individuals in need of assistance. Thanks to your generosity many a child will know the excitement of opening a gift on Christmas Day. We thank you especially in the name of our dedicated social service team who work so tirelessly throughout the year to help provide for the immediate needs of so many in our community.

As war rages in the land of Jesus' birth and in other parts of our world, we see in your generous gesture a concrete example of caring for the needs of others. It is a peace-making activity which benefits both the giver and receiver. We pray for you our benefactors, that you might have your own moments of joy this season. May you experience the blessing of seeing the face of God in the stranger as well as your loved ones and friends.

In the name of the One we call Emmanuel, (God with us),

Fr. Brian Bricker, O.P.
Associate Pastor