



They hosted this poor woman, our mother, the Virgin St. Mary, and St. Joseph the Carpenter. She was pregnant and in need to deliver her Baby. There was no place available in the large city of Jerusalem, nor a place in the small village except in the manger. All these people did good. Therefore, the second gift is to learn how to do good always. This second gift that I offer is for you to do good. We say about God: "Let us give thanks to the Beneficent."

The third gift we experience is to taste beauty. The Birth of Jesus Christ is a beautiful sight, of which the most beautiful scene was the choir of angels who appeared in heaven and sang, chanted, and declared: "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men." (Luke 2:14). This hymn and joyful expression was an expression of beauty. Beauty is a strong characteristic that is experienced by those who live with God. In His Birth, God showed us beauty and taught us to taste beauty and to appreciate every beautiful thing. Nature is beautiful and the fruits of the earth we eat are beautiful. What we see in the firmament, day and night, is beautiful. What we live in throughout the seasons, from winter to spring, then summer and fall, all are beautiful days. The days of a person's life, in general, are beautiful and a gift from God.

These are the three gifts: Live with love, do good and taste beauty. These three gifts are seen in the story of the Nativity. Christmas is a new beginning. Christmas is a new joy. The Christmas is a new message for each person to begin a new year glorifying God.

I congratulate all of you for these happy days. I congratulate you on the Feast of the glorious Nativity. I offer love and greetings to all the beloved everywhere in the world. I send you this message from the land of Egypt and from the Coptic Orthodox Church, the Mother Church that sends love from all the fathers in the holy Synod, and from all the fathers in all the Coptic churches here in Egypt. I also send you greetings from our long history in which we are living that extends to all our churches everywhere in the world. May God be with you. Happy New Year and Merry Christmas.

*Pamadas II*