

REFLECTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS DECEMBER 20, 2022

SUBMITTED BY	ANNOUNCEMENT-SCHOOL RELATED
Library	There will be a Model UN team meeting in the library today at 2:30.
Albano	"Don't Trust Anyone" Actors. You have a practice tomorrow. Please be prepared to stay for at least two hours.

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

A reading from the Gospel of St. Luke

"The angel Gabriel said to Mary, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her."



A spirit of hospitality and charity is something I have always been surrounded by in my family. On my mother's or father's side there is a practice to make the stranger feel like part of the family, in the way you welcome them into one's home or giving them a helping hand. Charity within my family walls is not something that comes out during the Christmas season or when asked to do it, it is a way of life, which is probably why I was disheartened with our collection on non-perishable items for those in need this year. As I reflect on it, it comes down to a few things of why this occurred. One, there are a lot of families within our school struggling to make ends meet and are unable to give at this time. Two, you may give in charity to others in a different way. Three, you forgot because you have other things going on in your life. Four, maybe we have become indifferent to helping those in need and rather spend our resources on our indulgences.

Yet, as scripture shows us nothing is impossible for God, especially when one responds to God's call as those who did contribute this year. Thank you. Your generosity, especially with four big donors, who if they didn't donate, we could barely send out five bags to families, were able to give to twenty-two families who need a helping hand over the holidays.

See, everyone always asks me, if God exists why doesn't he just eradicate hunger, I respond, when he invited you to help the stranger in need, to participate in being care givers and stewards of creation in hospitality and charity, why didn't you respond and say, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord." Consider, if six hundred of us in the building gave one thing from our cupboards and didn't

assume someone else would do it instead, we could help, with the grace of God, more than we did this year.

Let us keep in our prayers all who may be struggling with making ends meet this year, may those who have more and could give more, share it with them, through the grace of God. May our hearts be opened to help the stranger so everyone may partake in the generosity at the Lord's table. For those in Peru, Iran and Ukraine find rest and peace from the onslaught of unrest and war. Let us never forget the words of Jesus at the Ascension, remember I am with you always. Amen. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.