

「主のご降誕を心からお喜び申し上げます。」

時間切れのための拙文同封何卒お許しください。

2015年クリスマスと2016年新春に迎えつつ、

西山俊彦



Dear Friend in Christ,

“This day you shall know that  
the Lord will come and save us.” (Exodus 16)

Year after year, we have been used to listen this announcement, and, again we are to do so as 2015 Christmas and 2016 New Year’s Day approach. Despite the fact that this announcement has never been fulfilled, do we still hope or believe as the heavenly promise to lay upon our entire life?

To look back the year past, the 365 days completing, the physical condition has been fair and safe thanks be to God. Be that as it may, the main task in the field of Justice and Peace has not been productive enough as not having succeeded to publish most of the problems to draw public attention in broad which have been entitled as:

“Is it justifiable the right to self-defense, either on individual or collective level?”

“To what extent the responsible superiors treat their subjects as their slaves?”

“Was it true and sincere the pardon the Church Authority sought on the day of official forgiveness, on the First Sunday of Lent, 2000 ?”

The second and third themes, ready to be published any time, are composed of bitter records I myself have exchanged with academic, legal, and religious authorities, while the first theme is still to be completed anytime in any form to be requested. All these attempts, though they may look trivial, are to question the reliability and validity of on-going system to a degree to jeopardize Ruling Power themselves. Just to mention another example, the law-suit to the Supreme Court claiming to recover the right to Religious Freedom, in making my father to be de-shrined from Yasukuni-Jinja (supposed as the Official Shrine for all fallen soldiers), remains futile. All in all, what I am convinced along these battles is that the Establishment is firmly safe-guarded both by legal and physical protection and we, the sovereign people, are but to remain subservient to the Massive Power.

To be honest, what I am most concerned is the crucial point whether or not, are we not most gifted rational creature truly willing to realize the heavenly announcement?

“You are sons of God, therefore you are brothers and sisters each other”

or rather,

“Homo homini lupus, therefore survives the fittest!”

The fact tells us, the second position is the world we are living as the gap between rich and poor is widening, while no political, legal, religious...leaders are ready to provide adequate plan required to satisfy the first position. Besides, no one can deny, since *The*

*Limits for Growth* (1972), 42 years have gone in vain. All in all, to say the least, capitalism has no principle for self-constrain and the political leaders, too, have no solution but the one to gratify the will of well-to-does. How about, then, the religious leaders? Are they updated to fulfill imminent crises adequately to serve rather than to be served to the grade to realize the principle

“We are sons of God, therefore we are brothers and sisters each other”?

One more fact we fully know is that by 2060 the world population amounts to 10 billions, of which 4.7 b. will be in Asia and 4.2 in Africa by 2100. Wittingly or not, almost laissez-faire attitude of the mainstream at present is not an indulgence for tomorrow's tragedy enforcing for many the labeling for life or death as has happened in the past in case of crematory gas-chamber. Isn't just awful, the lack of imagination we ought to visualize and to actualize in due time and without delay?

What I have above stated may not look pleasant in my 'annual report'. I recall, however, the nickname I was to be called, 'Stubborn Pete'. To state in short in the end, I would like to stick to the adage 'Honesty is the best policy' on the way of justice and peace' too. So I mentioned the present worry and concern in the matter I am most deeply engaged, and stated the gist of its root-problem as moral or religious crises originating from the lack of divine mandate to which we all Christians are to be awakened. To my humble view, the worldly catastrophes foretold are not worldly one, but much more inner-seated moral and religious crisis. Of course, I am fully conscious, no objective is attainable within limited time, therefore, not even a bit of these desirables will be achieved within the rest of my life, so far completed 54 ys since the ordination. Yet only by getting started and setting forth the project for common future will open the door for heavenly state, and to have or not such plan and commitment will make a decisive difference of despair or hope, death of life, war or peace, to say the least. For me too, to stick to this attempt is more than enough for a life-long-consolation. To the most, of course, by sharing the same principle, we are surely to exchange the above-stated Heavenly Announcement:

“Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born too you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.” (Luke 2:9-12)

Heartily yours in Christ Jesus,  
the Lord of True Justice and Peace,

Fr.Peter T.Nishiyama

