



Paris, december 24th, 2008

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In an earlier letter I spoke to you about various missionary orientations across the world, for the Community.

These orientations are being carried forward today by the faithfulness we have towards our call, and by our missionary desire which grows as it is shared.

This is why I wanted to **inaugurate a newsletter allowing all of our members** (and in a particular way those without internet access) to know more about the Community's many missions, present and future. These range from serving in parishes, an evangelising presence in the inner cities in countries both rich and poor, and formation and evangelisation for families and young people, to SOS prayer on local and international levels, international sessions on different continents and training for mission... .

I encourage you to discover these different activities, but more still to let your hearts be set on fire. Some of these apostolates are well-established, others are new, but their real meaning comes when they are signs of God at work, of **He who is Emmanuel offering salvation at the very heart of human history and its upheavals.**

“God's work is that you believe in Him who has been sent” (Jn 6:29). My hope is that this newsletter might help us to strengthen our missionary availability and our desire to grow together in holiness !

I'd also invite you to read attentively the interview with Patrick Goubeault, the Community's Chief Bursar, concerning the tithe. Fraternal solidarity unites us, and it is specifically expressed in the financial participation of each member towards the missionary commitment of the Community, spread today across almost sixty countries.


Only the tithe allows us the material conditions for founding and developing the Community's audacity in mission, an audacity which the Church herself expects of us.

Dear brothers and sisters, the time of Christmas reminds us that we are born –and reborn- at the manger; through our poverties, both personally and as a community.

This truth takes flesh in our lives. Sometimes it has its share of pain – for example in the case of brothers and sisters suffering from increased financial difficulties or from the tragedy of war and exile from their homelands. Our solidarity as a Community must take flesh here too.

At the same time it is in all of these human experiences, in a mysterious but real way, that Emmanuel is founded, and that we are found worthy of sharing in God's joy, for the salvation of the world.

Thank you for your trust and for your fraternal support. At Christmas time, my prayer is that each of us be a reason for the joy of our brothers and sisters.



Dominique Vermersch

Moderator, Emmanuel Community

