

Christmas Messages

Apart from its religious significance, Christmas brings a natural feeling of joy and generosity. Those who enjoy life in material abundance are at least relieved from the regular tension of self-satisfaction by being in some measure induced by the spirit of the occasion to give even a little to their less fortunate fellow men. The Christian world is thus made to experience a sense of general goodwill.

The members of the Bench and the Bar may well divert their attention from serious and painstaking judicial or legal work, to be able to reflect and meditate upon the chances of utilizing their chosen pro-

I believe that Christmas is not a time to expect new blessings. Rather, it is a time of counting what we have, life, health, and whatever we are privileged to enjoy of earthly goods and happiness. It is a season of giving, not so much of material gifts, as of those of the spirit — forgiveness to our enemies, compassion to the unfortunate, goodwill to all men. In this way we should celebrate Christmas, in a spirit of thanksgiving for what we have, giving of ourselves, not from a sense of obligation, but in imitation of Him whose day it

I am deeply appreciative of the opportunity afforded me to extend to my colleagues in the law profession, through the pages of the Lawyers Journal, my warmest and sincerest greetings of the season. Perhaps more than to any other group of people, the spirit of Christmas I dare say conveys a truer meaning and purpose to the members of the legal profession.

It is part and parcel of the exercise of our common profession that rivalries and differences of opinion should exist among us. It is likewise undeniable that animosities, grudges and ill-feelings have been created in the desire to win the case for one's client. In the ardor of espousing a case, we are apt to forget the Christian virtues of charity and goodwill to our fellowmen.

I consider it most gratifying, therefore, that the Christmas season

The publication of the Lawyers Journal is coupled with public interest.

To the bar it is a reminder that law is not static — it progresses with the march of time. It opens for the lawyers an unending vista of the law in its various ramifications and the jurisprudence interpretative of the law. The treatises of renowned authors give ample food for thought for those who, having embraced the noblest of all professions, have evinced a desire to improve both law and jurisprudence.

To us of the bench the Lawyers Journal has been, as today it is, a guidepost pointing to us the course to pursue in the diverse legal matters brought to the courts for resolution. Time and again courts of justice were benefited by publications in the Lawyers Journal on interesting points of law. There is no gainsaying the fact that court decisions there are, published and unpublished, which have made reference to citations from the Lawyers Journal.

profession as an effective means for promoting peace and contentment among all men, instead of for creating confusion and misunderstanding. A prosperous and happy nation cannot thrive on litigations.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

(Sgd.) RICARDO PARAS
Chief Justice
Supreme Court

is, who gave Himself because He loved us. "He gives nothing but worthless gold, who gives from a sense of duty."

To all readers of the Lawyers Journal and, in particular, to all members of the profession, a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

(Sgd.) POMPEYO DIAZ
Presiding Justice
Court of Appeals

should come around regularly every year if but to remind us that above being lawyers we are true Christians enjoined to love one another and to feel ill against nobody. If we could be made to appreciate better and practice the virtues of Christ, there is no denying that the legal profession shall acquire a more honored reputation and thereby assure itself of a healthier respect and admiration by the rest of our fellowmen. Concomitantly, its standards will inevitably be raised to higher levels and make us earn the name of true guardians of law and justice.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

(Sgd.) OSCAR CASTELO
Secretary of Justice

The year is about to end. Heavier tasks for the Lawyers Journal are ahead. Let the Season bring to the editors of the Lawyers Journal and to those who unselfishly have dedicated their time and energy and have contributed materials for the publication thereof, the satisfaction that the signal service that they are rendering to the bench, to the bar and to the nation at large will find adequate compensation in the thought that their work is well done.

Senator Vicente J. Francisco has the honor that guides the Lawyers Journal, commands the respect and the faith both of the bench and the bar.

To Senator Francisco and the Lawyers Journal the future is a challenge. We hope for their success.

(Sgd.) CONRADO V. SANCHEZ
Acting Executive Judge
Court of First Instance of Manila