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“In the face of a challenge that knows no borders, we cannot erect walls. All of us are in the same boat. Every other person is my brother or my sister.”

Christmas Message *Urbi et Orbi*

Pope Francis

Praying for those suffering in trouble spots throughout the world, Pope Francis urged that vaccines against the coronavirus be made available to everyone, especially the most vulnerable and needy, in his Christmas message and his blessing “urbi et orbi” (to the city and the world). “I cannot place myself ahead of others, letting the law of the marketplace and patents take precedence over the law of love and the health of humanity,” he said. He asked everyone to be “generous, supportive and helpful, especially toward those who are vulnerable, the sick, those unemployed or experiencing hardship due to the economic effects of the pandemic, and women who have suffered domestic violence during these months of “lockdown.” Pope

Francis also offered prayers for those experiencing violence and unrest in the Middle East, Africa, Eastern Europe and elsewhere, and for victims of natural disasters, especially in Asia. He said the impact of COVID-19 on family Christmas celebrations this year should serve as an opportunity to “rediscover the family as a cradle of life and faith, a place of acceptance and love, dialogue, forgiveness, fraternal solidarity and shared joy.” Because of Italy’s renewed lockdown to slow the spread of the virus, the pope read his message in the Vatican’s Hall of Blessings in the presence of a representative group of about 50 people. He spoke in Italian; a Vatican translation of his message follows, copyright © 2020 by Libreria Editrice Vaticana.

merry Christmas!
I would like to bring to everyone the message that the church proclaims on this feast with the words of the prophet Isaiah: “To us a child is born, to us a son is given” (Is 9:6).

A child is born. A birth is always a source of hope; it is life that blossoms, a promise of the future. Moreover, this child, Jesus, was born *to us*: an *us* without any borders, privileges or exclusions. The child born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem was born for everyone: He is the *son* that God has given to the entire human family.

Thanks to this child, all of us can speak to God and call him *Father*. Jesus is the only begotten son; no one but he knows

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