

# Christmas Invitation from our Founders

**Call to Prayer:** "We have no news except that of the coming Mystery (of Christmas) which will show us the Savior of the world ..., under the form of a child. I hope we will be together at the foot of His crib to ask Him to draw us with Him into His lowly state. ...[T]his [is my] wish, in His Love..." (Vincent, Coste, volume 6, #2182, 12-23-1656 to Jean Martin, page 170)

**Hymn:** "O Come, All Ye Faithful" verse 1



Verses

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O  
2. † Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, †  
3. † Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing, †

1. come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
2. Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bovel  
3. Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n:

1. Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;  
2. Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;  
3. Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, O  
come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

Text: Irregular with refrain; John F. Wade, ca. 1711-1786; tr. by Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, alt. Music: John F. Wade.

**Reading:** "...go to the Crib so that I can meet you there near the Infant Jesus and His Holy Mother. ... You will learn from Jesus, my dear Sisters, to practice solid virtue, as He did in His holy humanity, as soon as He came down upon earth. It is from the example of Jesus in His infancy that you will obtain all that you need to become true Christians ..."

(Louise de Marillac, L.647, December 28, 1659 to the Daughters of Charity at Chantilly, page 666)

**Reflection:** When visiting the nativity scene, all followers of Vincent and Louise are united in the same faith, awaiting the same graces of the newborn infant, bound together by mutual love and impelled by the same charism of service to persons who are poor. For since the first Christmas, we share the our humanity with Jesus.

**Response/Closing Prayer:** "O Come, All Ye Faithful" verse 3

prepared for Ladies of Charity, Carol Schumer, D.C.

