

International NEWS MEDIA

DECEMBER 2020



GOVERNOR NEWSOM LAUNCHES "VACCINATE ALL 58" CAMPAIGN

LOS ANGELES — As the first doses of the Pfizer vaccine arrive in California, Governor Gavin Newsom launched "Vaccinate All 58", California's campaign for a safe, fair and equitable vaccine for all 58 counties in the state. The Governor joined Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles Medical Center, one of the first locations in the state to receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine, as first doses were administered. Across California, vaccines will be administered in phases by prioritizing groups according to risk and level of exposure. Initial doses will go to California's essential health care workers and those among our most vulnerable in long-term care settings.

"Hope is here. As our first doses of vaccine arrive, the promise of ending the pandemic is on the horizon. By taking collective, inclusive action across all 58 counties to get people vaccinated, we can get through to a healthier future for all," said Governor Newsom.

"This is a moment for hope, and it is also a time to remain vigilant as we face the most intense surge yet. While we have prepared for this surge with beds and equipment, staffing shortages are real and impact our medical system. There's light at the end



of the tunnel and I am calling on all Californians to do our part to get us through this — wear a mask, reduce mixing, stay home, stop the spread and save lives. Together we will get through this."

California is determining its distribution guidelines in an open and equitable fashion as initial vaccine supplies will be very limited. At first, vaccines will be provided to health

care workers and those in long-term care settings in accordance with the CDPH Allocation Guidelines for COVID-19 Vaccine During Phase 1A. This is expected to be followed by essential workers and others at highest risk of becoming infected or severely ill with COVID-19.

ing barriers to equitable vaccine implementation and decision-making.

Lawsuit against Google for anticompetitive practices and deceptive misrepresentations

SALT LAKE CITY — Utah Attorney General Sean D. Reyes announced that the State of Utah joined 10 states in a multistate lawsuit against Google. The suit cites multiple violations of Federal and State Antitrust Laws, including:

- Anticompetitive conduct, exclusionary practices, and deceptive misrepresentations in connection with its role in the multibillion-dollar online display advertising industry.
- Google's monopolization of online display advertising includes an anticompetitive

agreement with Facebook, misrepresenting customers, suppressing competition and harming consumers in violation of antitrust and consumer protection laws.

The internet revolutionized the way people consume content as well as the type of ads that companies can purchase to reach consumers, including online display ads. In addition to representing both the buyers and the sellers of online display advertising, Google competes directly against the buyers and sellers they separately represent, all while operating the largest exchange of these products. Google's exchange trades in billions of ad impressions a day.

The lawsuit alleges that Google monopolized, or attempted to monopolize, products and services used by advertisers and publishers in online display advertising. The complaint also alleges that Google engaged in false, misleading and deceptive acts while selling, buying and auctioning online display ads. These anticompetitive and deceptive practices demonstrably harmed publisher's ability to monetize content, increased advertiser's costs to advertise and directly harmed consumers.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE WELCOMES NEW APOSTOLIC NUNCIO



MANNILA -- President Rodrigo Roa Duterte accepted the credentials Monday, December 14, of Vatican's new Apostolic Nuncio to the Philippines. In accepting the letter of credence of Most Reverend Charles John Brown in Malacañang, President Duterte said he looks forward to working closely with the Holy See to further advance the shared advocacies of migrants' protection and climate action. The President welcomed Pope Francis's declaration of a global climate emergency and the need for a collective response anchored on the principles of equity and social justice.



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
WASHINGTON, D.C.

MESSAGE

Warm holiday greetings to the readers of International News Media!

Aside from expressing my best wishes to all of you for a peaceful and blessed Yuletide season, I also wish to take this opportunity to salute all Filipino essential workers and frontliners, who continue to embody the true Filipino spirit of *bayanihan* and *malasakit* in their respective fields. Their steadfast dedication to their professions and communities during this difficult time is truly commendable and inspiring.

As Filipinos all over the world continue to display resilience and compassion in the face of the difficulties brought about by the global pandemic, the Philippine Embassy remains resolute in strengthening our country's ties with the United States and Caribbean nations, promoting economic engagements across industries and sectors, and safeguarding and assisting our fellow Filipinos, especially those who are in distress. We are also working relentlessly in trying to secure access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines and treatments for the Filipino people.

I am deeply grateful to everyone who has been supporting our mission throughout the years, including the members of the Filipino communities in the United States and Caribbean region. May you have a meaningful and joyous holiday season and a prosperous New Year!



JOSE MANUEL S. ROMUALDEZ
Ambassador

December 2020

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World's largest youth organizations and WHO launch global mobilization

Funding for community programmes, engaging youth in solutions to address COVID-19, and convening Global Youth Summit are key features of this new mobilization

A new ground-breaking global youth mobilization was launched to invest in and scale up youth-led solutions and engagements in response to COVID-19.

The initiative was launched by an alliance of the world's largest youth movements and organizations, together with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Foundation.

The "Global Youth Mobilization for Generation Disrupted" is being led by the Big 6 Youth Organizations (Young Men's

Christian Association, YMCA; World Young Women's Christian Association, YWCA; World Organization of the Scout Movement; World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts; International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, IFRC; and The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award), which together actively involve more than 250 million young people, and aims to support young people to engage in and design efforts to turn around the impact of the pandemic.

The Global Youth Mobilization will feature the convening of a Global Youth Summit in April 2021, and a fund of US \$5 million to support local and national youth organizations.



GLOBAL YOUTH
MOBILIZATION
FOR
GENERATION DISRUPTED

WE ARE PART
OF THE SOLUTION,
NOT PART OF
THE PROBLEM.

Vatican launches #aGiftOfWisdom campaign

By FR. BENEDICT MAYAKI, SJ

Picking up Pope Francis’s appeal to young people on the 32nd World Youth Day - in which he reminded them that they need the “wisdom and vision” of the elderly - the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life is launching an initiative called “A Gift of Wisdom” as the Church approaches the season of Christmas.

In a statement, the Dicastery emphasizes that in spite of the “particular climate in which we are living” due to the pandemic, young people have the opportunity to receive a special gift through bonding with elderly people – many of them living alone because of the ongoing health crisis.

“We can create bonds with each of them,” the statement notes, “this is a treasure waiting to be discovered!”

Closeness to the elderly

This “Gift of Wisdom” initiative comes after the success of the July 2020 campaign, “The elderly are your grandparents.” During that cam-

paign, the Dicastery collected virtual hugs sent by many young people to both their own grandparents and to “adopted grandparents.”

With this latest initiative, however, young people from all over the world are invited to “send a message to the elderly and to receive in return the gift of their wisdom.”

Share on social media platforms

More precisely, the Dicastery proposes that young people post on social media “a memory, a piece of advice, or a ‘gift of wisdom’ that they have received from one of the elderly people with whom they have formed a bond in recent months.”

As health restrictions are still in force in many countries, the Dicastery encourages that participation in this campaign be done via social media using the hashtag #aGiftOfWisdom.

The best posts will be shared on the social media accounts of the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life (@laityfamilylife).



The Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life launches an initiative to promote bonding between young people and the elderly.

HHS increases and begins distributing over \$24B in Phase 3 COVID-19 provider relief funding

On December 16, the Trump Administration, through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) is announcing it has completed review of Phase 3 applications from the Provider Relief Fund (PRF) program and will distribute \$24.5 billion to over 70,000 providers. Up from the \$20 billion originally planned, the addition of another \$4.5 billion in funding is being used to satisfy close to 90 percent of each applicant’s reported lost revenues and net change in expenses caused by the coronavirus pandemic in the first half of 2020. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recognizes this pandemic has upended the health care system and caused significant

financial hardships. These resources, along with previous distributions, have provided much needed relief. Payment distribution will continue through January, 2021.

HHS has designed the PRF program to be agile and responsive to the shifting dynamics of this pandemic. As with other General Distributions, applicants that have not already received a baseline payment of 2 percent of annual revenue from patient care were eligible to do so. Recognizing the ongoing challenges for providers, HHS enhanced the Phase 3 distribution to consider the actual revenue losses and expenses experienced by providers that were attributable to COVID-19.

Extending comfort and joy to the elderly this Christmas

CARE FACILITIES CONNECT RESIDENTS WITH LOVED ONES AND OFFER CHEER DURING SEASON MARKED BY PANDEMIC RESTRICTIONS

By SUSAN KLEMOND

Residents of Mullen Home for the Aged normally don’t put up Christmas decorations during the First Week of Advent, but this year they did.

“We don’t have volunteers, so we’re doing it little by little with our residents,” said Sister Carolyn Martin, of the Little Sisters of the Poor, a nurse, administrator and vocations outreach manager at the Little Sisters’ full-service facility for Denver’s elderly poor. COVID-19 restrictions currently prevent volunteers from serving at the home.

Christmas celebrations during the pandemic will be different for everyone, but especially for nursing and residential-care residents who, for their protection from coronavirus, may not be able to visit with their families in person or socialize as much with each other.

As residents feel the effects of months of lockdown restrictions, staff members are working to help them connect with loved ones this season through socially distanced and virtual visits. Also planned are more individualized holiday activities and opportunities for spiritual care and growth.

Residents often feel more anxiety during the holidays, but it’s even more taxing for them this year because they most want to see their families in person and can’t, said Capuchin Brother Anthony Monahan, who has been ministering to the residents at Mullen Home for nine years.

Brother Anthony, who said he considers the residents like family, said that, during his talks and one-on-one meetings, he tries to help residents find the joy of the moment while giving them opportunities to share their challenges and memories.

Following Los Angeles County’s and other civic authorities’ regulations, residents currently can only have closed window visits with their families. While in-person visits have been limited, Mt. San Antonio Gardens has trained staff to facilitate virtual visits on Zoom and FaceTime.



Clockwise from top left: It is beginning to look a lot like Christmas at the Mullen Home. Resident Margaret Gilreath and Sister Caroline John share a moment of mirth during Christmas preparations in the second floor living room. Apartment resident Bill Virden helps Sister Mary William hang a wreath in the first floor hallway. Resident Marjorie Gibson and Sister Mary Augustine unwrap figurines for an international Nativity set display on the first floor. Resident Ceci Varoz delights in showing Sister Gloria Thomas the welcoming Christmas display at the entrance to the first floor living area.(Photo: Courtesy of the Little Sisters of the Poor)

Little Sisters of the Poor serving the elderly poor for over 150 years.

“Love God very much, so that you can look after the aged well, for it is Jesus whom you care for in them.”
- Saint Jeanne Jugan

DONATE NOW

ANSWERING COMPLICATIONS WITH COMPASSION IN JAPAN

Every day, the Salvation Army World Service Office (SAWSO), its partners and supporters strive to deliver in greatest measure what we can, with what we have, to those in greatest need – to remove the complications that hinder the rebuilding of hope following natural and man-made disasters.

For example, in the isolated Japanese city of Kesenuma, commercial fishing and related industries account for 85 percent of jobs. When a tsunami destroyed large sections of the city, including the port, and took a huge toll on the livelihoods, the small community had a difficult time making its voice, and its needs, heard amid the widespread destruction in Japan at that time.



The Salvation Army Japan Territory became the first non-governmental organization to directly assist members of the local fisherman’s union to identify their priorities for recovery. The prime concerns included planning productive use of the remaining

fishing boats and preparing for impending harvests of oysters and wakame, a seaweed that is a Japanese staple and a large source of income to the union.

Supported by SAWSO, The Salvation Army provided ten sets of the diving tools necessary to complete this work to replace the fishermen’s equipment that had been washed away by the storm.

The union also needed a place to process their marine harvest prior to shipping. To this end, The Salvation Army provided temporary tents as operating centers in 15 port locations. These structures are already being used for the processing wakame and other marine products. - Salvation Army

IMMIGRATION UPDATE

IN THE AIR

HOSTED BY AWEE ABAYARI

JACK GOLAN

50 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN U.S. IMMIGRATION LAW

Send your questions to: radiotvanchor1@gmail.com
www.youtube.com/AweeAbayari

INM
INTERNATIONAL NEWS MEDIA



Happy Holidays

Fellow Austrians and Friends of Austria!

On behalf of all of us here at the Austrian Embassy,
my wife Susi and I – and of course our dog Paco – wish you a

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays,
and a
Happy New Year!

2020 has certainly been a challenging year
and I guess we can all do with a bit of quiet and reflection.

Once it is safe to do so – and with the Covid-19 vaccinations being rolled out as we
speak there is a silver lining on the horizon – we look forward to welcoming you yet
again in person at the Austrian Embassy in 2021. On this hopeful note: Happy Holidays
and a healthy and peaceful New Year!

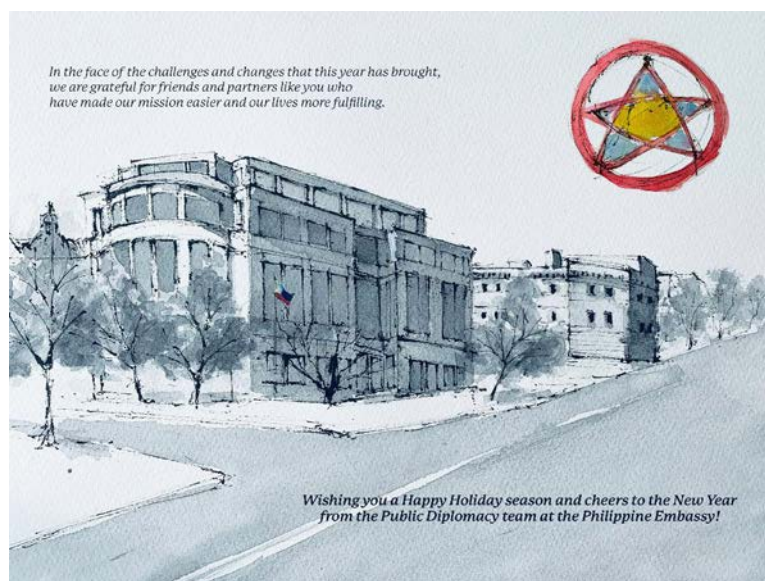
Your sincerely,

Martin Weiss
Austrian Ambassador to the United States

U.S. Consulate General Johannesburg announces 2021 space exploration program for Gauteng high school learners

The U.S. Consulate General Johannesburg, in partnership with the Dorothy Jemison Foundation for Excellence (DJF) and the Sci-Bono Discovery Centre, is pleased to announce the launch of The Earth We Share™ (TEWS)-Space Race program for learners. The program aims to expose Gauteng public schools learners to the many career opportunities in space exploration industries while building critical thinking and problem solving skills needed to succeed in all jobs, but particularly the Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) fields. A selected number of the participants will have the opportunity to visit the U.S. in 2021.

Two hundred Grade 9 – 11 learners from Gauteng will participate in one of a series of day long workshops between February and March 2021. The learners will work in teams to develop innovative solutions to challenges relating to space exploration and life here on Earth. Once the workshops are completed 12 learners will earn the opportunity to visit the U.S. Space Camp at Space Rocket Center in Huntsville Alabama and tour Washington, DC or tour space related locations across South Africa in 2021 depending upon international travel and COVID-19 pandemic status.



The artwork of the Philippine Embassy in Massachusetts Avenue in Northwest Washington, D.C. was created by our colleague Avela Semaña and rendered graphically by Zarina Dela Cruz.



DARELL ANN R. ARTATES (MS.)
Second Secretary and Consul
(Public Diplomacy)
Embassy of the
Republic of the Philippines

MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR in Different Languages

English: MERRY CHRISTMAS
French: Joyeux Noël.
German: Frohe Weihnachten.
Spanish: Feliz Navidad.
Italian: Buon Natale.
Tagalog: Maligayang Pasko
Portuguese: Feliz Natal.
Chinese: Shèngdàn jié kuàilè
Korean: meli keuliseumaseu
Japanese: Merikurumasu
Dutch: Vrolijk kerstfeest.
Romanian: Crăciun fericit.
Russian: S Rozhdestvom



Polish: Wesołych świąt Bożego Narodzenia.
Swedish: God Jul
Czech: Veselé Vánoce

English: HAPPY NEW YEAR
French: Bonne Année
German: Gutes Neues Jahr

Spanish: Feliz Año Nuevo
Italian: Felice Anno Nuovo
Tagalog: Manigong Bagong Taon
Portuguese: Feliz Ano Novo
Dutch: Gelukkig nieuwjaar
Chinese: Xīnnián kuàilè
Japanese: Akemashiteomedetōgozaimasu
Korean: saehae bog manh-i bad-euseyo
Romanian: Un an nou fericit
Polish: Szczęśliwego nowego roku
Russian: s Novym Godom
Swedish: Gott nytt år
Czech: Šťastný Nový rok

Australia signs NASA's Artemis Accords

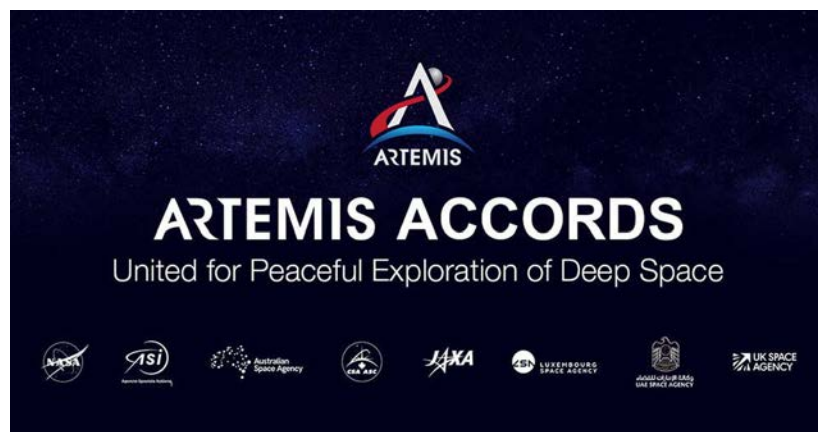
Australia is among the first partner countries to join NASA on international cooperation with the signing of the Artemis Accords.

The Artemis Accords are grounded in the Outer Space Treaty of 1967 and establish a practical set of principles to guide space exploration cooperation among nations. The Artemis Accords aim to increase the safety of operations, reduce uncertainty, and promote the sustainable and beneficial use of space.

At the 71st International Astronautical Congress (IAC) held virtually overnight, NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine announced that Australia will join NASA in going back to the Moon safely and sustainably through the signing of the Artemis Accords.

International partnerships will play a key role in achieving a sustainable and robust presence on the Moon later this decade while preparing to conduct a historic human mission to Mars.

In September 2019, the Hon, Scott Morrison, Prime Minister, announced Australia's partnership with NASA on its inspiring Moon to Mars space exploration program that



will see astronauts land on the Moon by 2024 through the Artemis Program.

Anthony Murfett, Deputy Head of the Australian Space Agency said Australia is now harnessing the best of our intellectual and innovative capabilities through our local Moon to Mars initiative.

Australia is committed to ensuring the safety and sustainability of space activities, and meeting our international obligations.

This signing today helps Australia advance space as a partner with NASA and international counterparts on the Artemis

mission as we go forward to the Moon, on to Mars.

As Australia looks at economic recovery post-COVID, the Australian space industry will be an important enabler of other vital Australian industries.

The founding member nations that have signed the Artemis Accords, in alphabetical order, are: Australia, Canada, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, and the United States of America.



DC-based officials reaffirm strong PH-US relations on food and agriculture

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Undersecretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs Ted McKinney paid a courtesy visit to Philippine Agriculture Attaché to the Americas Dr. Josylene Javelosa on 15 December 2020 in appreciation of the strong bilateral relationship of the Philippines and the United States in food and agriculture.

The United States remains the Philippines' number 1 partner in terms of total agricultural and food trade and the country's top agriculture and food supplier. Meanwhile, the U.S. is the second largest destination of the Philippines' food and agricultural exports in 2019.

Dr. Javelosa and Undersecretary McKinney briefly exchanged views on the recently concluded working group meeting on food and agriculture issues under the Philippines-United States Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) meeting held recently.

Annually, the USDA hosts a holiday reception for colleagues and friends from embassies, international organizations, trade associations, and the U.S. government. But due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, the USDA has made the difficult decision to cancel this year's holiday gathering.



Agriculture Attaché Dr. Josylene (Joy) C. Javelosa discusses PH-US Agri relations with United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Undersecretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs Ted McKinney on his courtesy visit on 15 December 2020 at the Main Chancery of the Embassy of the Philippines in Washington D.C.

Contingency measures for end of UK transition period

Even if the European Union and the United Kingdom conclude a highly ambitious partnership covering all areas agreed in the Political Declaration by the end of 2020, the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the EU acquis, the internal market and the Customs Union, at the end of the transition period will inevitably create barriers to trade and cross-border exchanges that do not exist today.

There will be broad and far-reaching consequences for public administrations, businesses and citizens as of 1 January 2021, regardless of the outcome of negotiations. These changes are unavoidable and stakeholders must make sure they are ready for them.

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The EU, Leonardo DiCaprio and Global Wildlife Conservation team-up to protect biodiversity

After an exceptionally challenging year for biodiversity conservation across the world because of the coronavirus pandemic, the European Union, environmentalist and Academy Award®-winning actor Leonardo DiCaprio, and Global Wildlife Conservation (GWC) launched two initiatives to better protect the planet in 2021 worth €34 million recently.

Both initiatives -- a Rapid Response for Ecosystems, Species and Communities Undergoing Emergencies (Rapid RESCUE) and an initiative to safeguard Virunga National Park in the Democratic Republic of the Congo -- exemplify the EU's commitment to delivering the EU's Green Deal around the world and GWC's mission to conserve the diversity of life on Earth.

Jutta Urpilainen, Commissioner for International Partnerships, stated: "Biodiversity is under threat all over the world; the ongoing pandemic has only highlighted even more that protecting



GLOBAL
WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION



precious ecosystems is crucial for wildlife to flourish. Our own existence depends on this. I am glad GWC with Leonardo DiCaprio and the European Union are teaming up to increase our efforts in protecting biodiversity and securing a green recovery for people and planet after the COVID-19 crisis."

Leonardo DiCaprio said: "This year has shown that we are at a critical turning point for our planet and that we must choose to protect and restore wildlife and ecosystems,

for their sake and for our own health. The current pandemic, devastating fires in the Amazon, Australia, the Congo, the larger and more frequent hurricanes in the Caribbean, and other environmental crises have shown that we must reset our relationship with nature. I am honoured to work with Commissioner Urpilainen, the EU, and GWC to establish this Fund to implement urgent conservation actions around the world."

The United States is now Denmark's biggest trading partner

The United States is now the largest export market for Danish goods and services with total imports reaching DKK 157.6 bn. in 2019.

This comes after a particular good year for Danish exports to the United States, where it is worth noting that the US was the only region that experienced growth in Danish export throughout the autumn season.

According to the American-Danish Business Council, the great results for Danish exports especially relates to an increase of export in the pharmaceutical industry, machinery and transport equipment. The latter part is especially due to an increase of export in the Danish maritime sector in the past year.

Germany has historically been Denmark's largest export market, however, due to recently low growth in Germany and the continuous growth in the US, the US is now the largest purchaser, when you combine the export of Danish goods and services. Every time Danish companies are successful in selling goods and services to the American market, new potential job opportunities arise for the American public.

A review conducted by the Confederation of Danish Industry and the Embassy of Denmark published in 2019 came to show that 123,000 people in the US are employed in jobs created by Danish companies or from the export of goods and services from Danish companies. The review also concluded that 101,250 people in Denmark are employed through US subsidiaries and Danish exports to the US.

It is evident that the strong ties between the US and Denmark remain very close. Moreover, it is important for Denmark to maintain these good trading relationships, as it positively affects both economies.

El Salvador begins implementation of Asylum Cooperative Agreement

On December 15, 2020, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced that the United States and El Salvador have concluded the implementation accords for the Asylum Cooperative Agreement (ACA) signed in September 2019. Under the ACA, certain migrants requesting asylum or similar humanitarian protection at the U.S. border will be transferred to El Salvador to seek protection in El Salvador.

"Implementation of the Asylum Cooperative Agreement between the United States and El Salvador is a critical step in the establishment of a truly regional approach to migration, and, more specifically, to the offer of protection to those migrants who are victims of persecution," said Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Chad F. Wolf.

In order to confront the ongoing humanitarian and security crisis at the Southwest border due to historic levels of irregular migration and human smuggling, the U.S. and El Salvador signed an ACA on September 20, 2019 to allow migrants to seek protection within the region in El Salvador. Today's announcement means that all operational details relating to the implementation of the ACA have been worked out between the United States and El Salvador.

Impact of the Covid-19 crisis on EU and its foreign policy

For the European Union and its foreign policy, the impact of the COVID-19 crisis will closely depend on the decisions we take in the coming months.

We are living through a serious crisis of multilateralism. The G7 and G20 are virtually absent; the UN Security Council is paralysed and many sectoral structures, such as the World Trade Organisation or the World Health Organisation, are being turned into arenas where countries are fighting each other.

For the first time since the beginning of the 20th century, we are experiencing a crisis in which the United States has not played a leading role so far. At the same time, China is increasingly asserting itself on the world stage. Everywhere, authoritarian regimes are on the rise.

The current crisis is also responsible for growing divergences between countries. Not all countries have the same capacity to face the challenges posed by the pandemic. This situation is leading to a backsliding in terms of global poverty and inequality.

Finance Minister expects Thai economy to grow 4 percent next year

Thailand's Minister of Finance is forecasting that the Kingdom's economy should bounce back from the Covid-19 recession and achieve about 4 percent growth next year.

"Without Covid-19, our economy could have expanded 3 percent in 2020. Next year, we expect 4 percent growth. As we expect a 6 percent contraction this year, there is an output gap of 9 percent," said Minister of Finance Arkhom Termpittayapaisith.

Thailand has achieved an impressive public health victory in its battle to contain the spread of the Covid-19 coronavirus. Recently World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus singled out Thailand for praise at the World Health Assembly.

"Thailand's numbers speak for themselves. Thailand is an excellent example that, with a whole-of-government, whole-of-society, comprehensive approach, this virus can be contained — even without a vaccine," Tedros said.

However, the global recession has adversely affected the Kingdom's economy and businesses.

Merry Christmas!

INM Book Choice

Let us Dream

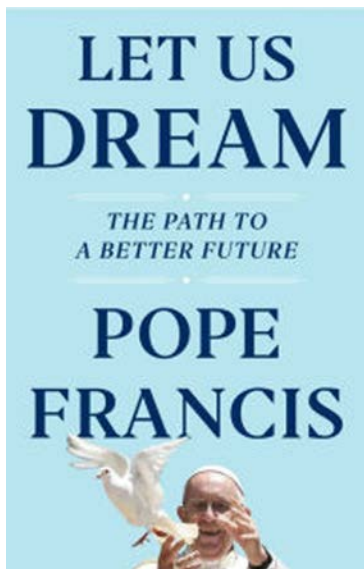
by Pope Francis

In this uplifting and practical book, written in collaboration with his biographer, Austen Ivereigh, the preeminent spiritual leader explains why we must—and how we can—make the world safer, fairer, and healthier for all people now.

In the COVID crisis, the beloved shepherd of over one billion Catholics saw the cruelty and inequity of our society exposed more vividly than ever before. He also saw, in the resilience, generosity, and creativity of so many people, the means to rescue our society, our economy, and our planet. In direct, powerful prose, Pope Francis urges us not to let the pain be in vain.

He begins “Let Us Dream” by exploring what this crisis can teach us about how to handle upheaval of any kind in our own lives and the world at large. With unprecedented candor, he reveals how three crises in his own life changed him dramatically for the better. By its very nature, he shows, crisis presents us with a choice: we make a grievous error if we try to return to some pre-crisis state. But if we have the courage to change, we can emerge from the crisis better than before.

Francis then offers a brilliant, scathing critique of the systems and ideologies that conspired to produce the current crisis, from a global economy obsessed with profit and heedless of the people and environment it harms, to politicians who foment their people's fear and use it to increase their own power at their people's expense. He reminds us that Christians' first duty is to serve others,



especially the poor and the marginalized, just as Jesus did.

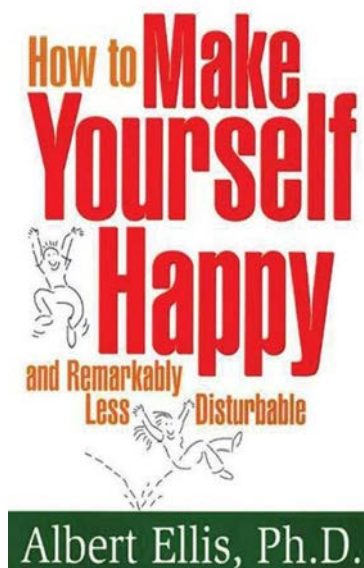
Finally, the Pope offers an inspiring and actionable blueprint for building a better world for all humanity by putting the poor and the planet at the heart of new thinking. For this plan, he draws not only on sacred sources, but on the latest findings from renowned scientists, economists, activists, and other thinkers. Yet rather than simply offer prescriptions, he shows how ordinary people acting together despite their differences can discover unforeseen possibilities.

Along the way, he offers dozens of wise and surprising observations on the value of unconventional thinking, on why we must dramatically increase women's leadership in the Church and throughout society, on what he learned while scouring the streets of Buenos Aires with garbage-pickers, and much more.

How To Make Yourself Happy

by Albet Ellis, PhD

Would you like to: Change your disturbing thoughts into healthy ones? Make yourself less disturbable in the face of adversity? Overcome anxiety, depression, rage, self-hate, or self-pity? How to Make Yourself Happy and Remarkably Less Disturbable will show you how! This user-friendly guide offers simple, straightforward procedures and practical wisdom on a happier, more trouble-free life, from one of the most highly respected psychologists of our time. Dr. Ellis includes dozens of real-life case examples, detailed descriptions of self-help action steps, and a witty, articulate style that you'll find entertaining and enlightening. Go ahead—make yourself happy



History of Christmas

Christmas is celebrated on December 25 and is both a sacred religious holiday and a worldwide cultural and commercial phenomenon. For two millennia, people around the world have been observing it with traditions and practices that are both religious and secular in nature. Christians celebrate Christmas Day as the anniversary of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, a spiritual leader whose teachings form the basis of their religion. Popular customs include exchanging gifts, decorating Christmas trees, attending church, sharing meals with family and friends and, of course, waiting for Santa Claus to arrive. December 25—Christmas Day—has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1870. - History.com



HOLIDAY PLANNING TIPS FROM Wegmans



PLAN YOUR MENU

- Plan on 3-5 appetizers per guest per hour (total of 10-15 each)
- You'll need about 3 beverage servings per guest
- Pick easy-to-eat finger foods in assorted flavors, textures, and colors
- Keep it simple with a mix of premade items and items you make yourself



ORGANIZE THE SPACE

- Keep tabletop decor simple—the food is the star here
- Save fridge space—keep wines & beers on ice in bowls/tubs
- Arrange stations for smooth traffic flow, mingling, and plenty of space in between



SET THE STAGE

- Set the station with napkins, small plates, foodpicks
- Refresh stations every half-hour
- Add a festive touch with flowers
- Group flavor pairings together (i.e., cheese, charcuterie, olives)

SMART FY 2021 funding opportunities now open for applications

SMART has announced the following fiscal year 2021 funding opportunities:

- Adam Walsh Act Implementation Grant Program: The Support for Adam Walsh Act Implementation Grant Program assists states, D.C., U.S. territories and federally recognized Indian tribes with implementation and ongoing maintenance of requirements under the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006. Grants up to \$400,000 will be awarded, with no required match and a 36-month period of performance beginning October 1, 2021.
- Eligibility: States, the District of Columbia, the principal U.S. territories and federally recognized Indian tribal governments that have elected to carry out SORNA
- Keep Young Athletes Safe:

This funding is to design and implement a program that aims to safeguard amateur athletes through the prevention of sexual, physical and emotional abuse in the athletic programs of the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee, each national governing body and each Paralympic sports organization.

- Eligibility: Nonprofit, nongovernmental entities with nationally recognized expertise in the identification and prevention of sexual, physical and emotional abuse in the athletic programs of the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee, each national governing body and each Paralympic sports organization

In FY 2021 funding applications will be submitted to the Office of Justice Programs in

a new two-step process, with initial information submitted to Grants.gov and the full application in JustGrants.

Grants.gov Deadline: Feb. 1, 2021, by 11:59 p.m., Eastern time

Applicants must register with Grants.gov before submitting an application. To register with Grants.gov, applicants will need to obtain a Data Universal Numeric System (DUNS) and System of Award Management (SAM) registration or renewal. Then, applicants must submit an SF-424 and an SF-LLL in Grants.gov.

JustGrants Deadline: Feb. 16, 2021, by 11:59 p.m., Eastern time

The full application, including attachments, must be submitted in JustGrants by February 16, 2021, by 11:59 p.m., ET.

Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Managing Holiday Stress

The end-of-year holidays are joyous times filled with family, food, and comforting traditions. However, the holidays can also be stressful due to finances, family conflict, and pressure to create the ideal holiday experience. This year, we have the additional concern of the COVID-19 pandemic, which may change the way we celebrate. If you find yourself feeling overwhelmed in the coming weeks, changing the way you approach the holidays may make a big difference in helping you make the most of the holidays.

Here are some health, wellness, and financial tips to help you navigate this holiday season:

- **Celebrate safely.** If you are planning to attend or host a family gathering this season, please follow guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to protect yourself and others from COVID-19.
- **Get support if you need it.** The holidays can be an emotionally charged time. This time of year may be challenging if you are balancing personal, relationship, or family-related issues. Please know you are not alone, and it is okay to ask for help.
- **Make a budget and stick to it.** Financial advisors recommend that you spend no more than 1.5 percent of your annual income on holiday expenses. Consider creative ways to stretch that budget such as holding a gift exchange instead of buying gifts for everyone on your list, making handmade gifts, or checking out an alternative gift fair.
- **Give yourself permission to say no.** Instead of going overboard trying to please others during the holidays, take care of yourself by assessing what you can realistically do and saying no to commitments beyond that threshold.
- **Enjoy holiday treats in moderation.** Consider having a light, healthy snack before visiting holiday parties to avoid over-indulging.
- **Stick to your exercise routine.** Not only is exercise a great stress reducer, it can also help you manage all the readily available holiday treats.
- If you drink alcohol, pay attention to your consumption. Do not underestimate the effects of alcohol and always have a designated driver at events where you plan to consume alcohol. - *Department of Homeland Security*



If you find yourself feeling overwhelmed in the coming weeks, changing the way you approach the holidays may make a big difference in helping you make the most of the holidays.

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How to cook food safely at home

The first step in having safe leftovers is cooking the food safely. Use a food thermometer to make sure that the food is cooked to a safe, minimum internal temperature.

- **Red meats:** Cook all raw beef, pork, lamb and veal steaks, chops, and roasts to a minimum internal temperature of 145° F as measured with a food thermometer before removing meat from the heat source. For safety and quality, allow meat to rest for at least three minutes before carving or consuming.
- **Ground meats:** Cook all raw ground beef, pork, lamb, and veal to an internal temperature of 160° F as measured with a food thermometer.
- **Poultry:** Cook all poultry to an internal temperature of 165° F as measured with a food thermometer.

LEFTOVERS AND FOOD SAFETY

Often when we cook at home or eat in a restaurant, we have leftovers. To ensure that leftovers are safe to eat, make sure the food is cooked to a safe temperature and refrigerate the leftovers promptly. Not cooking food to a safe temperature and leaving food out at an unsafe temperature are the two main causes of foodborne illness.

KEEP FOOD OUT OF THE “DANGER ZONE”

Bacteria grow rapidly between the temperatures of 40° F and 140° F. After food is safely cooked, hot food must be kept hot at 140° F or warmer to prevent bacterial growth. Within 2



Cook all poultry to an internal temperature of 165° F as measured with a food thermometer.

hours of cooking food or after it is removed from an appliance keeping it warm, leftovers must be refrigerated. Throw away all perishable foods that have been left in room temperature for more than 2 hours.

Cold perishable food, such as chicken salad or a platter of deli meats, should be kept at 40° F or below. When serving food at a buffet, keep food hot in chafing dishes, slow cookers, or warming trays. Keep food cold by nesting dishes in bowls of ice or use small serving trays. Discard any cold leftovers that have been left



A platter of deli meats, should be kept at 40° F or below.

out for more than 2 hours at room temperature.

COOL FOOD RAPIDLY

To prevent bacterial growth, it's important to cool food rapidly so it reaches as fast as possible the safe refrigerator-storage temperature of 40° F or below. To do this, divide large amounts of food into shallow containers.

Hot food can be placed directly in the refrigerator or be rapidly chilled in an ice or cold water bath before refrigerating. - *Department of Agriculture*

Extending validity of TPS and TPS documentation for beneficiaries of certain country designations

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) recently announced a Federal Register notice extending Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and the validity of TPS-related documentation for beneficiaries under the TPS designations for El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Nepal, Nicaragua, and Sudan.

The notice automatically extends through Oct. 4, 2021, the validity of Employment Authorization Documents (EADs); Forms I-797, Notice of Action; and Forms I-94, Arrival/Departure Record (collectively, TPS-related documentation) for beneficiaries under the TPS designations for these six countries. The notice also sets forth procedures necessary for nationals of these six countries (or aliens having no nationality who last habitually resided in these countries) to apply for EADs if they wish.

Winter driving tips

Severe weather can be both frightening and dangerous for travelers. Winter storms, bad weather and sloppy road conditions are a factor in nearly half a million crashes and more than 2,000 road deaths every winter, according to research by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. Drivers should know the safety rules for dealing with winter road emergencies.

AAA recommends the following tips while driving in snowy and icy conditions:

Cold Weather Driving Tips

- Keep a bundle of cold-weather gear in your car, such as extra food and water, warm clothing, a flashlight, a glass scraper, blankets, medications, and more.
- Make certain your tires are properly inflated and have plenty of tread.
- Keep at least half a tank of fuel in your vehicle at all times.
- Never warm up a vehicle in an enclosed area, such as a garage.
- Do not use cruise control when driving on any slippery surface, such as on ice and snow.

Tips for Driving in the Snow

- Stay home. Only go out if necessary. Even if you can drive well in bad weather, it's better to avoid taking unnecessary risks by venturing out.
- Drive slowly. Always adjust your speed down to account for lower traction when driving on snow or ice.
- Accelerate and decelerate slowly. Apply the gas slowly to regain traction and avoid skids. Don't try to get moving in a hurry and take time to slow down for a stoplight.
- Increase your following distance to five to six seconds. This increased margin of safety will provide the longer distance needed if you



have to stop.

- Know your brakes. Whether you have antilock brakes or not, keep the heel of your foot on the floor and use the ball of your foot to apply firm, steady pressure on the brake pedal.
- Don't stop if you can avoid it. There's a big difference in the amount of inertia it takes to start moving from a full stop versus how much it takes to get moving while still rolling. If you can slow down enough to keep rolling until a traffic light changes, do it.
- Don't power up hills. Applying extra gas on snow-covered roads will just make your wheels spin. Try to get a little inertia going before you reach the hill and let that inertia carry you to the top. As you reach the crest of the hill, reduce your speed and proceed downhill slowly.
- Don't stop going up a hill. There's nothing worse than trying to get moving up a hill on an icy road. Get some inertia going on a flat roadway before you take on the hill.

Jesse Collins, Steven Soderbergh and Stacey Sher to produce the 93Rd Oscars®

LOS ANGELES, CA – Emmy®-nominated producer Jesse Collins, Oscar®-nominated producer Stacey Sher and Oscar-winning filmmaker Steven Soderbergh will produce the 93rd Oscars®, Academy President David Rubin announced. It will be their first involvement with the Oscars, which airs live on ABC and broadcast outlets worldwide on Sunday, April 25, 2021.

“The upcoming Oscars is the perfect occasion for innovation and for re-envisioning the possibilities for the awards show. This is a

dream team who will respond directly to these times,” said Academy President David Rubin and Academy CEO Dawn Hudson.

“We’re thrilled and terrified in equal measure. Because of the extraordinary situation we’re all in, there’s an opportunity to focus on the movies and the people who make them in a new way, and we hope to create a show that really FEELS like the movies we all love,” said Collins, Sher and Soderbergh.

Collins has produced numerous awards

shows and events including the Grammy Awards®, BET Awards, UNCF An Evening of Stars®, Black Girls Rock! and Soul Train® Awards, and such television series and specials as “John Lewis: Celebrating a Hero,” “Bookmarks: Celebrating Black Voices,” “Change Together: From the March on Washington to Today,” “Sunday Best,” “American Soul,” “Rhythm + Flow” and “The New Edition Story.” He earned an Emmy nomination for the 61st Grammy Awards in 2019.

Sher earned Best Picture Oscar nominations for “Django Unchained” (2012) and “Erin Brockovich” (2000). She has produced or executive produced more than two dozen major motion pictures, including such notable films as “Pulp Fiction,” “The Hateful Eight,” “Contagion,” “Garden State,” “Man on the Moon,” “Out of Sight,” “Gattaca,” “Get Shorty” and “Reality Bites.” Her television credits include such series as “Mrs. America,” which earned 10 Emmy nominations, “Reno 911,” “Into the Badlands” and “Sweet/Vicious.”

Soderbergh won a Directing Oscar for “Traffic” in 2000 and earned a nomination for directing “Erin Brockovich” that same year. He also earned a writing nomination for “sex, lies, and videotape” (1989), his feature film directorial debut. A prolific writer, director, producer, cinematographer and editor, he has directed more than 30 films in a three-decade career, including “Magic Mike,” “Contagion,” the “Ocean’s” trilogy, “Out of Sight” and, most recently, “Let Them All Talk,” premiering this month.



Courtesy of The Collins Jackson Agency Photo credit: Amanda Friedman Photo credit: Doron Gild

Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority acquires assets of the Las Vegas Monorail Company



LAS VEGAS - Today the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority (LVCVA) closed on its transaction to acquire the assets of the Las Vegas Monorail Company, preserving an important transportation option in Las Vegas and ensuring it can operate in the coming years.

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LAS VEGAS TELLS 2020 TO KISS OFF



LAS VEGAS – New Year’s Eve celebrations will look different this year, with many of Las Vegas’ well-known traditions on-hold. However, Vegas will still own the title of ‘America’s Party’ guaranteed to bring the phrase “out with the old, in with the new” to life, in real time.

On December 31, log on to www.VisitLasVegas.com – or Vegas’ Facebook, and YouTube channels – for a livestream countdown to midnight for an Only Vegas celebration, complete with a live DJ and epic sights that cannot be missed. While the physical event is not open to the public, guests from around the world can celebrate virtually. Las Vegas enthusiasts can even share what they are most looking forward to in the new year for a chance to win trips to the destination in 2021.

When the countdown clock strikes zero, get ready for what Vegas is well known for: a blast. Experience a burst of color and sound as 2020 is literally blown away and 2021 is ushered in. A 2020 sign will be lit up – and then blown up – in spectacular fashion. A DJ will then begin the new year with a celebration of music when a massive LED lit 2021 sign is revealed along with an eruption of confetti, streamers and fireworks. The 12-15-minute colorful pyrotechnic spectacular is the perfect way to ring in a much-anticipated new year.

No matter where they may be, visitors will still be able to celebrate safely and virtually from their own homes with hundreds of thousands of other revelers the Only Vegas way.

Upcoming Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 and Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022

The Summit expressed its full commitment to and confidence in the successful organisation of safe and secure Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, starting on 23 July 2021.

The Summit conveyed its appreciation and gratitude to the Japanese Government, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and the Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee for their excellent work, noting in particular the extremely diligent work on the COVID-19 countermeasures, and also the approval of the revised budget due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Summit agreed that the top priority remains the health and safety of all participants. In this regard, it was highlighted that a toolbox of COVID-19 countermeasures has been developed for every possible scenario.

State-of-the-art rapid testing methods and vaccines will be added to this toolbox.

With regard to vaccines, the Summit took note of and appreciated the IOC’s role in a worldwide pro-vaccination campaign, and agreed on the participation of all the Olympic Movement stakeholders in this campaign.

The Summit also expressed its full commitment to and confidence in the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022. The Summit participants were advised about the COVID-19 countermeasures being prepared for the Games by the Chinese authorities.

Technical preparations for the Games are going extremely well



despite challenges in the test events programme due to COVID-19-related restrictions. All the venues are due to be completed by the end of 2020.

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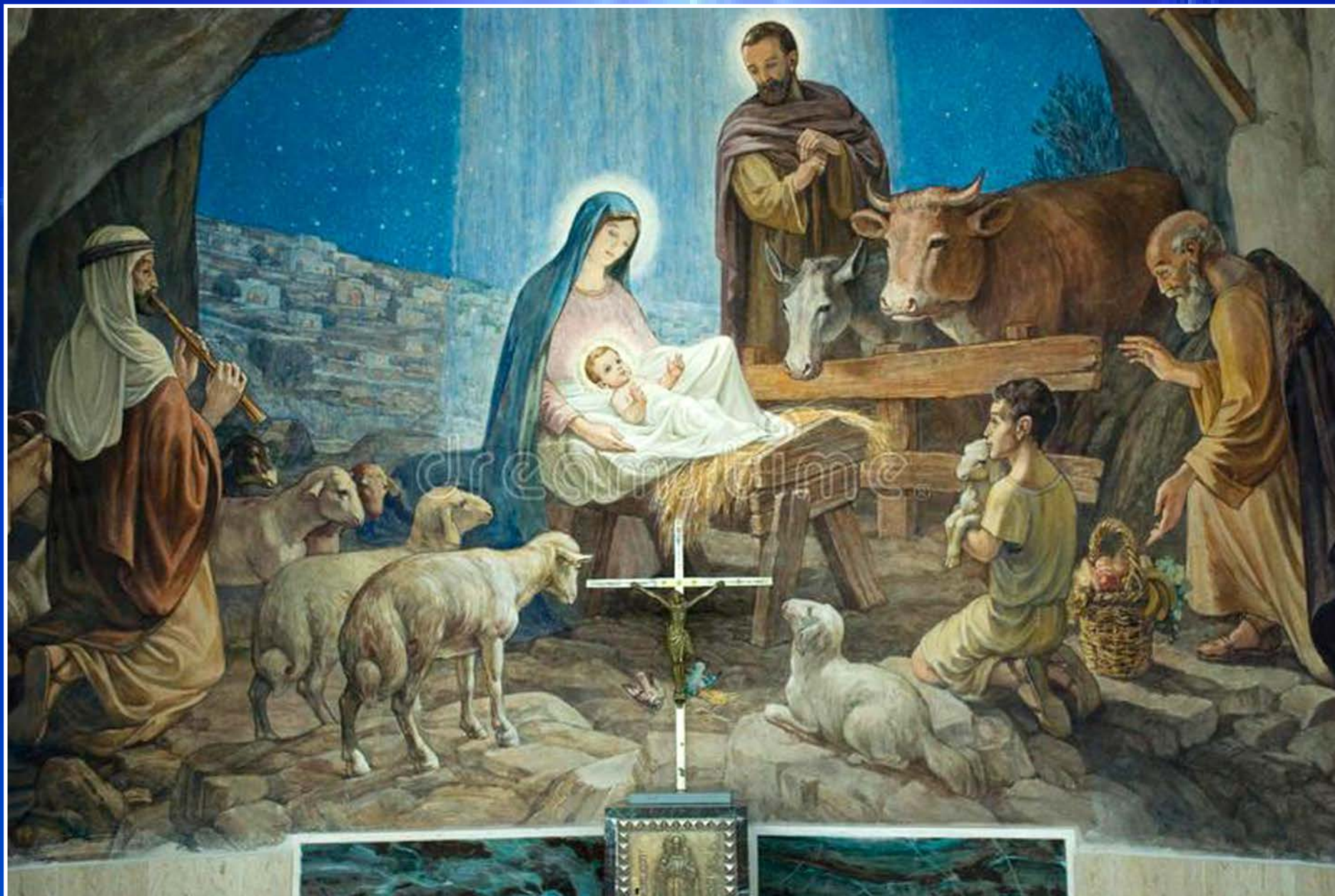


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NATIVITY SCENE

By POPE FRANCIS

The enchanting image of the Christmas crèche, so dear to the Christian people, never ceases to arouse amazement and wonder. The depiction of Jesus' birth is itself a simple and joyful proclamation of the mystery of the Incarnation of the Son of God. The nativity scene is like a living Gospel rising up from the pages of sacred Scripture. As we contemplate the Christmas story, we are invited to set out on a spiritual journey, drawn by the humility of the God who became man in order to encounter every man and woman. We come to realize that so great is his love for us that he became one of us, so that we in turn might become one with him.

