

Parish Bulletin

The Official Publication of Santuario de San Antonio Parish
We Care Because We Pray

27 December 2020

(White)

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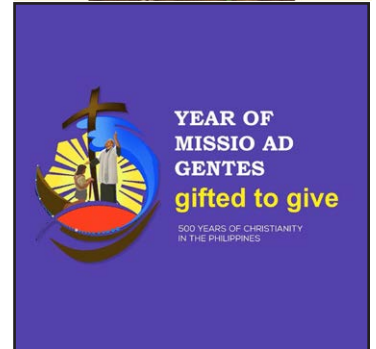
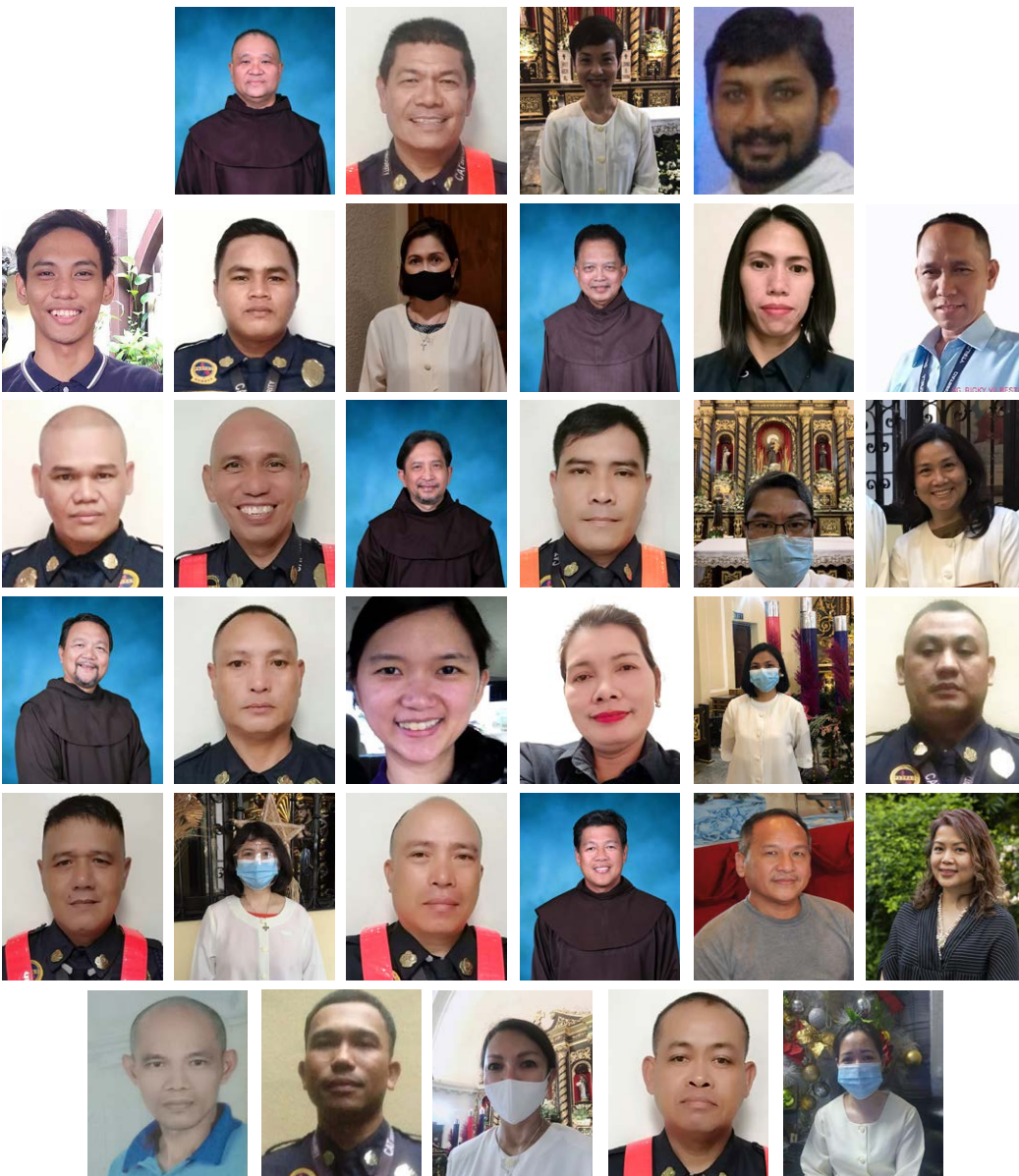
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People of the Year 2020 Church Frontliners



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THE ABCs of CATHOLIC DOCTRINE

By Lianne Tiu

All Families Can Be Holy

Celebrated on the Sunday after Christmas -- the Feast of the Holy Family reminds us that each family is called to holiness -- regardless of its situation.

To be holy does not mean that a family has to be perfect, free from problems, conflicts and difficulties. Pope Francis reminds us, "A perfect family does not exist."

Our model of a holy family is the Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. We look to the Family of Nazareth for inspiration, example and encouragement. It may seem an unrealistic example for our own family as Jesus is both human and divine; Mary is sinless, and Joseph is a saint. But the Holy Family was not exempted from daily work, sufferings and challenges that all families face.

St. Therese of Lisieux once told her fellow Carmelite sisters, "What does me a lot of good when I think of the Holy Family is to imagine a life that was very ordinary. It wasn't everything that they have told us or imagined. For example, that the child Jesus, after having formed some birds out of clay, breathed upon them and gave them life..."

Pope Francis said, "In the family life of Mary and Joseph, God is truly at the center, and He is so in the Person of Jesus. This is why the Family of Nazareth is holy. Why? Because it is centered on Jesus."

Our families become holy, when Jesus Christ is present in our lives. It is not just hanging a crucifix or holy images on the wall, or having a dusty Bible in our homes. Jesus becomes present in our families when parents and children pray, when they live in union with Him doing their ordinary, daily duties in life. Christ is present when family members love one another -- despite their imperfections and conflicts -- when they make their love for Him known to others.

One may question how there can be holiness when there are selfishness, disobedience, and anger in the family? Let us look at the dysfunctional family of St. Monica. Her pagan husband was

unfaithful and hot-tempered. Their son Augustine accepted the Manichaean heresy and fathered a child from a sinful union. Monica prayed fervently for her family when everything seemed hopeless. After years of prayers and perseverance, her husband was converted, her son became the great St. Augustine, and she herself became a saint.



"No family drops down from Heaven perfectly formed," Pope Francis wrote, "families need constantly to grow and mature in the ability to love". Love for Jesus will strengthen love for each other. Love for Jesus will give energy to overcome family difficulties. Love for Jesus will make families holy.

Let us entrust holiness of our families to the Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. From them, we can draw light, strength and consolation.

(References: Message of Pope Francis for the 49th World Communications Day; Pope Francis' address to Festival of Families (2015); Apostolic Exhortation "Amoris Laetitia" (The Joy of Love) of Pope Francis (2016); "The Holy Family and Holiness in Ordinary Families" by Michele Chronister; "Feast of the Holy Family – Reflections", (beliefnet.com)

RANDOM THOUGHTS

Voices from yesterday and today

By Peachy Maramba

Holy Mary, Mother of God

Greatest and first among our saints Patroness of the Philippines

History of the Feast

We celebrate on this day, January 1, the Solemnity of Holy Mary, Mother of God.

A solemnity is a feast of the greatest importance. A long time ago, January 1 -- the octave of the Feast of the Nativity of Christ -- was celebrated as the 'Anniversary of Mary.' However, it later lost its Marian emphasis when it became the Feast of the Circumcision to honor the circumcision of Jesus. In fact, in many churches, it is still celebrated as such.

In 1969, Pope Paul VI proclaimed Mary as the 'Mother of the Church' and January 1 was once more restored as a celebration of Mary's divine motherhood. This Feast is meant "to commemorate the part played by Mary in the Mystery of Salvation."

Lumen Gentium (Light of the Nations) is the Dogmatic Constitution of the Catholic Church. Its Chapter 8, Section 66 states: "From the earliest times the Blessed Virgin is honored under the title Mother of God (under) whose protection the faithful take refuge in prayer in all their perils and needs." Thus among the many titles of

Mary, her most exalted one and the one for which she has been venerated from the beginning is "Mother of God."

Pope Paul VI in his encyclical *Marialis Cultus* (Marian Cult) declared that the Feast was meant "to commemorate the part played by Mary in the Mystery of Salvation."

When Mary was given the Greek title of *Theotokos* or Mother of God, Nestorius, Patriarch of Constantinople (now known as Istanbul in Turkey) contested it as he argued that Mary was the mother of the man-Jesus, not of God.

However in 431 the Council of Ephesus declared that if Jesus is the Son of God, then Mary must be the Mother of God. If Christ is the second Divine person of the Holy Trinity and the Son of God, it rightfully follows that Mary is the Mother of God and the Church was right to call the Holy Virgin Mary Theotokos.

But it was not until December 25, 1931 when the celebration of this Feast was enjoined on the whole Western

Church by Pope Pius XI in his Encyclical *Lux Veritatis*. Today, in the Dogmatic Constitution, Mary is referred to as "Mother of God" no less than 12 times!

Mother of God

When we celebrate Mary as the mother of God, we do not mean that the divine nature of Jesus comes from Mary. Rather, it is His humanity that came from her. Thus in her womb was combined the two natures of Christ. Since Christ as the second Person in the Holy Trinity is the Son of God then it follows that Mary is the Mother of God.

The Story of Mary

When mankind lost Paradise through the woman led away by Satan, God promised another woman whose seed would crush the serpent's head. At the birth of Mary, the accomplishment of that promise had already begun.

At an early age, Mary was espoused to Joseph who, though a descendant of David, was a carpenter. At some point during the betrothal, the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and announced that she would bear a Son to be named Jesus, a Royal Successor to King David.

When Mary objected that she had no husband, the angel told her that "the Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you," the Child would be called "Holy, the Son of God." Mary was only a mere teenager when God called her for her special mission.

Since Mary's free consent was readily given at the Annunciation when she said to the Angel Gabriel, "Let it happen to me as you have said," and all generations call her blessed as she became the Mother of God. This is also why she is considered the GREATEST and FIRST among all of our saints.

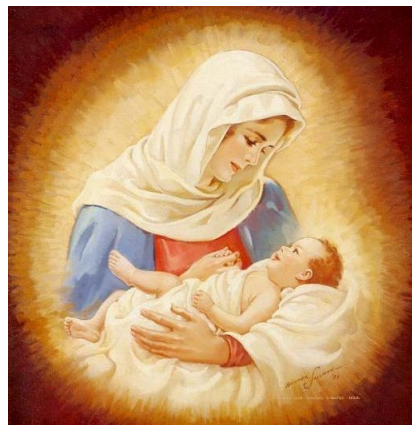
"Mary was the first to receive in her womb the Body and the Blood of Christ. The Incarnation was history's First Communion, the first tabernacle was her Immaculate Heart. Before any apostle or priest, it is Mary who gives Jesus to the world."

It is no surprise then that Mary being given the unique privilege of being the mother of Jesus is, of all the saints, the most universally and immensely revered.

Mother of the Church

Because the Word became flesh not only in Mary's womb but more importantly through her exceptional faith, Mary has been called not only the Mother of Jesus but also Mother of the Church.

It took great courage and faith to give her consent to the mysterious plan of God that Mary would conceive and bear a Son named Jesus Who would be called "the Son of the Most High." **(continued on page 5...)**



Interview with Execom



Rose Galvez



Marie Tycangco



Teng Jorolan

What was something you felt you and the Parish were happy to accomplish in 2020, despite the pandemic? What was your biggest joy?

Marie: My biggest joy was being able to continue praying with the community and being able to push through with the regular Parish activities although in a different setting. So at least, you still get to see the faces you used to meet regularly.

Teng: For me, I'm happy that a lot of people are making things work despite the situation. We encounter a lot of challenges but there are still good people who try to uplift everyone and make things work.

Rose: It's finding these two sisters here. I don't think I would have ever been able to do this without this team. I think we were really able to work together so well despite all the challenges.

Marie: We were also able to do a lot of things that we planned to do before but due to the pandemic, it pushed us to push through with our plans... For example, the Socom Ministry -- we've been planning to have one since 2-3 years ago... but now was the best opportunity for us to really make it happen. Aside from that, the Stewardship Program... we've also been planning to have it... before -- the Parish would get a lot of funds -- so it wasn't really as urgent. But now is the right time as the Parish is also experiencing difficulties and we see how all the parishioners can get involved.

Teng: How I view the pandemic situation is like looking at the silver lining... I always say 'Look at the opportunities that this pandemic brings.' It forced

people to pray together. It forced people to pray the Rosary everyday. It's giving us opportunities to help elsewhere, even as far as Catanduanes. It gave us the opportunity to build a church. It gave us the opportunity to be present online so we can go to Mass anywhere we are, even if we cannot go out. That's always how I see things... it gave the people the opportunity to unite. I think the Parish is one big family.

Rose: That's true, we're able to comfort each other, if there's a sickness or a death in the family or among the loved ones of our friends... We're able to pray for each other and to be a source of comfort for one another. For me, one of the greatest joys is to be able to build the church of St. Clare. Imagine... that's such a gift given to all, not only to Santuario de San Antonio but also to the whole Franciscan provincial.

What was your biggest challenge in 2020? What did this challenge/difficulty teach you about God/the Church/yourself?

Teng: Being the Secretary of the PPC, means there are a lot of responsibilities that come with it... One is establishing a new ministry, which is Socom. As Marie mentioned, it was the plan in the past few years that was just implemented this year. Fortunately and unfortunately, there's a greater need for it now than before. So with its relevance now, the pressure is a lot bigger. You can make mistakes. You can miscommunicate something. And you're actually representing the Parish of San Antonio so -- as much as possible -- we need a lot of help.

It also helps that we pray a lot as a community... these things that we don't really raise to God in prayer... simple things, everyday things... and our responsibilities

in the Church. I make it part of my prayer. I offer it to God, whether it's a challenge, whether it's a victory also... I offer it as my service and as my prayer to God.

Rose: My biggest challenge is to communicate through technology -- it's really not my personality. I prefer to focus on the conversation, on people, on looking at their eyes, their facial expression, their body language... that to me is so important and that's what I've missed this year. But then, at the same time, I realized that maybe, that's God's way of making me grow and making me learn that there are many ways of communicating.

Marie: My biggest challenge is really not being able to meet people physically. So you're able to empathize with people but you're not able to comfort them or hug them or laugh with them, cry with them, love them in person. This for me makes a lot of difference. It's hard to not be with people that you love and care for, even if you want to be with them.

It taught me that relationships are most important. There's really a lot of value in family and friends and our community... more than anything, it's really relationships... it's people... it's being with them... spending time with them... being present.

Looking ahead, what are the PPC's plans for next year in 2021?

Rose: Well there are the regular activities that are done every year, like the Masses, the Francisfest... but then, there are other things also that are unforeseen.

For me, what I'm looking forward to next year, more than the activities, is the opportunity to work together with more people. This year, a lot of people were discovered and their talents were brought out -- their talent in writing, in doing posters, in organizing things. There's so much talent in the Parish. That's what I'm looking forward to... that we can work with people and bring out the best in each one... and for them also, to bring out the best in us.

Marie: I think the key word for next year will really be stewardship... to be able to devote our Time, Talent and Treasure in whatever way possible -- whether we'll be able to continue our activities that we used to do in the past years or even if we have to continue doing it online... whatever it takes -- we'll make things happen.

Teng: For me, what I'm looking forward to next year -- I'm a visual person -- I want to see more smiles. I want to see families going to Mass again together.

And for having SOCOM as a new ministry and even other ministries that we're involved with... This year was a challenging year but I hope it sets standards and traditions that will be good for the community and that will be a future tradition in church already. Actually, there are a lot of good things that the pandemic brought so hopefully, we can continue them (e.g. with the Rosary online). It can be a tradition in Church. That's why during photo shoots, we pose with masks on. It tells about the current times now. I hope it doesn't happen again. I hope it's the first and last that we take photos showing our masked faces.

Rose: One more thing to add... there's no challenge that cannot be resolved if we have each other to help find solutions. If you're by yourself, it's scary. It can get very overwhelming. That's what this pandemic taught me... Yes, we have all our challenges and all these fears but nothing is impossible because judging from what happened this year, we really achieved the impossible, after evaluating all that was accomplished. That's what we want to build on for next year... to have an even stronger and more united community.

(...continued from page 3: Holy Mary, Mother of God)

Mary exemplified "the spirit of true discipleship, attention, reverence and obedience to the word and will of God." It was in this perspective that she gained her greatest glory.

In becoming, in effect, the first and paradigmatic disciple, she gained the honor of being not only the first saint to be honored but the most preeminent of all the saints. "Mary has by grace been exalted above all the angels and men to a place second only to her Son, as the Most Holy Mother of God who was involved in the Mysteries of Christ."

On the other hand, when we say that Mary is also the Mother of us all, we mean that as brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ, we, like Paul who, in Galatians 4: 6 cried out "Abba, Father, thus we call Mary "Mama Mary."

As all Catholics believe in the motherhood and perpetual virginity of Mary and that "the Blessed Virgin stands out in eminent and singular fashion as exemplar of virgin and mother", we celebrate on January 1 the Solemnity of Holy Mary, Mother of God.

What Do I Look Forward to -- in 2021



DONDI MAPA

I had a group which would “meat” once a month -- to try out a different steak restaurant each time. We would also agree on a wine theme -- and we each brought a bottle of wine -- wrapped in a brown paper bag. After blind tasting all the wines, we would vote for a “Wine of the Night” and the winner would get a free dinner! Hope to do that again in 2021.

GABBIE ABELLO ANONAS (SYA)

I’m looking forward to seeing all my friends and going on more (safe) adventures in 2021!



MIKO CANO (Luke 18)

This 2021, I’m looking forward to seeing how “crazy” everyone will be around each other once we can (hopefully) finally see each other. Not only that, but the reactions towards everyone’s changes over the quarantine period will probably be a sight as well.

POPI PINEDA

Physical contact! God-willing, with the existence of the COVID vaccine and hopefully the beginning of a long path of realigning lives in the so-called “new normal” -- I can begin shaking hands with my colleagues, striking casual conversations with friends, and most of all, hugging my loved ones until they choke (just kidding! No choking!) -- without fear of ending up bedridden and weak afterwards.



PAOLO SUMULONG (Antioch)

I’m looking forward to the first awkward face-to-face interaction with friends whom I haven’t seen in a long time, if and when the quarantine is lifted! I have almost forgotten how to hug and *beso* people!

JASON RAMIREZ (SYA)

Mostly, I’m looking forward to traveling again to see my friends and brothers in the US. I’ve missed 6 weddings already in 2020. For 4 of those, I was supposed to be in the wedding party!!



KIM and KAT CHUA (SYA)

New beginnings and new trips especially after we get vaccinated.



JESSI GOMEZ (SYA)

In 2021, I’m most looking forward to growing the businesses I started in 2020. Having 2 in completely different industries -- one in food, another in apparel -- I may be in over my head! But I’m up for the challenge. If everything goes according to plan and prayer, my first kiosk for my Japanese food take-out stall will be open for business by first quarter of 2021!



YANI LEDESMA (Luke 18)

This 2021, I am looking forward to the release of Taylor Swift’s re-recorded albums!



People of the Year 2020

Church Frontliners

This is a last minute idea -- patterned after Time Magazine's tradition -- of having a Person of the Year. As this was a very trying time in the history of not only mankind but also the Church, we find it fitting to honor the brave servants who -- despite their own fears and personal challenges -- courageously serve; so other people can continue being blessed by the Masses and other services. Without these people risking their health and lives, we would not be experiencing the comfort and sustenance we get from hearing Mass whether online or physical. We recognize all the people who were behind the scenes serving and giving hope. However, to make the selection process more defined and clearer, we focused on those who consistently and physically serve in Church -- taking risks so you can have the much-needed food for the soul.

To our People of the Year: The Church Frontliners -- Maraming maraming salamat! You are our very own heroes in Church! May God continue to shower His light upon you and fill you with His grace!

We also thank:

Ricky Sison and Paul Macasaet for helping us set-up the online Masses

Jojo and Pin Guingona and Marly Laraya for helping us set up the Media Room

Bro. Aaron and Marlon, our new technician, providing us with the online help for the Masses, Francisfest, Friar-side Chats, etc

All those who worked behind the scenes, you know who you are

Betty Go Roxas-Chua and the Francisfest team for the help both for SSAP and Sta. Clara

Worship Ministry, Music Ministry, EMHC for the service in the Masses

The lectors and commentators who serve courageously in all Masses and Eucharistic ministers who have served during all the Masses

The Parish Office staff for all the assistance

The Parish Bulletin team and its contributors for the hard work and commitment to bring Hope and information through healing articles week after week throughout the pandemic

The PPC Execom Rose, Marie and Teng who have given us their best to lift up our spirits and help the Parish

The Pastoral Team for tirelessly serving us to continue bringing us closer to God

To Mama Mary, St. Joseph, St. Francis, St. Anthony, St. Clare, St. Padre Pio, St. Peregrine and all the angels and saints whom we call upon for inspiration and when we need to meet deadlines

Most of all, we give glory and thanks to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit for the providence, guidance and light.

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Parish Pastoral Council

Rose Galvez – President
Marie Tycangco – Vice President
Teng Jorolan - Secretary



LET'S LEARN SOME GOOD MANNERS!

Illustration by Hannah Fernandez

Don't put your elbows on the table, and don't smack your lips while eating.



THIS WEEK'S ECO TIP!

Illustration by Alex Arcenas

Watch out for leaks.

Have all leaks from bathroom fixtures, appliances, and ceilings fixed as soon as possible. This prevents water wastage, molds, excessive water bill, and keeps your home protected.




Advent and Christmas Schedule

SIMBANG GABI MASSES	CHRISTMAS MASSES	NEW YEAR'S MASSES
Anticipated Simbang Gabi: Dec 15-23 8 PM (not streamed)	Christmas Eve: Dec 24 8 pm and 10pm (streamed)	New Year's Eve: Dec 31 8 pm (streamed)
Simbang Gabi: Dec 16-24 5 AM (streamed)	Christmas Day: Dec 25 8am, 10am and 12nn (streamed)	Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God: Jan 1 8am, 10am and 12nn (streamed)
<i>Driveway Communion (in front of the church, after 5am Mass)</i>	4pm and 6pm (not streamed)	4pm and 6pm (not streamed)
<i>Register for Mass at www.ssaparish.eventbrite.hk or by scanning the QR code:</i>	<i>Driveway Communion (by the Grotto) Dec 25, 11am - 12nn</i>	<i>Driveway Communion (by the Grotto) Jan 1, 11am - 12nn</i>







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SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH


SCHEDULE OF MASSES AND PRAYERS

(STARTING DECEMBER 5, 2020)


MONDAY - FRIDAY 7:30 AM - Mass (Streamed) 12:00 NN - Angelus (Streamed) Oratio Imperata 12:15 PM - Mass 3:00 PM - Divine Mercy Prayer (Streamed) For Healing and Chaplet 5:30 PM - Holy Rosary (M, W, Th, F) Chaplet of St. Anthony (T) 6:00 PM - Mass	SUNDAY MASSES 8:00 AM Tagalog (Streamed) 10:00 AM (Streamed) 12:00 PM (Streamed) 4:00 PM 6:00 PM	 <p style="text-align: center;">MASS REGISTRATION</p>
DRIVEWAY COMMUNION Monday to Saturday 8-9 AM (main driveway) Sunday 11AM-12PM (near the Grotto)	SATURDAY MASSES 7:30 AM - Mass (Streamed) 12:15 PM - Mass 6:00 PM - Anticipated Sunday Mass (Streamed)	

Alternatively, use the link: ssaparish.eventbrite.hk

 Santuario de San Antonio Parish

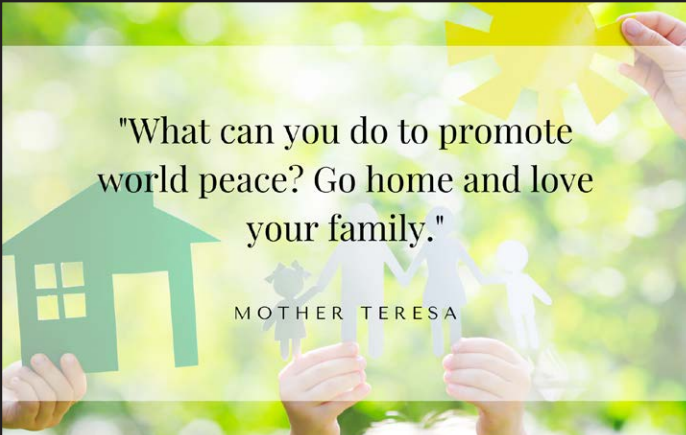


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"What can you do to promote world peace? Go home and love your family."

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