



Christmas
 Navidad
 Noël
 Weihnachten



Dear friends and benefactors of the Catholic Biblical Federation!

We are approaching the end of another year of our journey. Probably never before have so many of us who inhabit this planet wished for this year to finally come to an end. We can identify many negative experiences that have resulted from the main source of our discontent – the pandemic. These probably coincide with the long list of injustices and problems that have been afflicting humanity for decades. However, this year all of these issues have been elevated to an extreme level. A document published by the Pontifical Academy for Life describes all these problems as a common experience for all of humanity and encapsulates them through a single word: FRAGILITY. We human beings have once again realized that we are fragile. For many, but especially for those living in the so called First World, this has been a frustrating and depressing experience – those who considered themselves to be superior and invincible have discovered that they too are fragile and impotent.

As a result of this new awareness many now understand how urgent is the need to rediscover the true meaning of life and find reasons to go on living. What is the purpose of life? Why continue the struggle? What sense does it all make?

In the Liturgy of the Word for the Second Sunday of Advent we listened to the words of the prophet Isaiah: “Console, console my people”. For all of us who believe in the God of Life, these words along with the experience of this past year, are an invitation to seek help and inspiration in the Word of God, to discover and experience it as the SOURCE OF LIFE. Then we should also PROCLAIM it to all, especially to those who find themselves lost and still don’t fully grasp the deeper meaning of life.



The coming year 2021 will be see the beginning of the post-pandemic era, uncertain and unpredictable, with more questions than answers. For the Catholic Biblical Federation it will also be the year of the Plenary Assembly which we plan to celebrate during the month of November in the city of Mar del Plata in Argentina. This Plenary Assembly was to be the first held since the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the Federation, which began with the celebration of the Congress last year and which we conclude with the Year of the Word of God this year. However, it will now also be the first Assembly in the post-pandemic era and, for that reason, the Executive Committee of the Catholic Biblical Federation has decided that we adopt as its theme: *“Proclaiming the Word, gift of life for a fragile world (Rm 8,22-23)”*.

At the end of this exhausting year, marked by death and suffering, and facing into the new year sustained with hope and confidence, the General Secretariat and Administration of the Catholic Biblical Federation wish to thank you for the journey completed this year and we invite you to continue working together filled with confidence to achieve our common goals, built on the solid base of the Word of God – source of life for us and for our fragile world, which is our shared home.

Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year!

P. Jan J. Stefanów, svd
 CBF General Secretary

