



## Good Wishes for Christmas 2011

### Be Light! Be Salt! Be Leaven!

The New-born Jesus, God before the ages, thus outlines for us our mission and Christian vocation.

This constitutes the great challenge for the world's Christians; especially Arab Christians in these tragic times tormenting Arab countries, especially Syria.

Jesus comforts us at this Feast of Christmas! He tells us, "Be not afraid...I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." (Matthew 28: 10, 20) I am with you and all sons and daughters of the East that I ordained as the place of my birth, mission, passion and resurrection. The East is your homeland too! You will continue my mission there by living out the values of my Gospel in communion and witness with all citizens, and by being light, salt and leaven, despite difficulties and hardships in your tempest-tossed countries.

"My peace I give unto you!" (John 14: 27) My peace is with you, my country Palestine and the whole East, cradle of Christianity, and all its inhabitants.

We celebrate all our friends in this spiritual note, thanking them for their love and asking for their prayers and support. We wish them all a glorious Feast of the Nativity and Happy New Year and trust it may be springtime for our Arab world, heralding a better future for the whole region.

Merry Christmas!

Happy New Year 2012

† Gregorios III

**Patriarch of Antioch and All the East,  
Of Alexandria and of Jerusalem**

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