



Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Dear Friends,

The wonderful season of Christmas is upon us again and this is my final letter to you as your Worldwide President 2019-2024. The time has rolled by so quickly and instead of saying farewell, I would rather this to be a time of thanksgiving for the blessing that you are to so many, and a celebration of all we have accomplished together as Mothers' Union.

In a changing world with its many complexities, I am so much stronger and taller now, having been inspired by you and leading our life-giving movement through different phases, although sometimes it did stretch my understanding. Thank you for your love and prayers which gave me confidence and helped me to recognize that it has been all about God's plan and purpose for Mothers' Union.

This incredible journey has been one where I have seen the hand of God move mountains in difficult situations and reach beyond borders to give hope to so many members and communities. I have encountered the goodness of Jesus Christ when our sisters, their families and communities are lifted out of poverty and shame. The multitudes that benefit from our prayers and acts of kindness continue to testify to the Christ-light that radiates from us, and a faith that transcends all understanding. Blessed are we who fellowship together in this ministry! Blessed are we who believe in doing our little bit to make a difference.

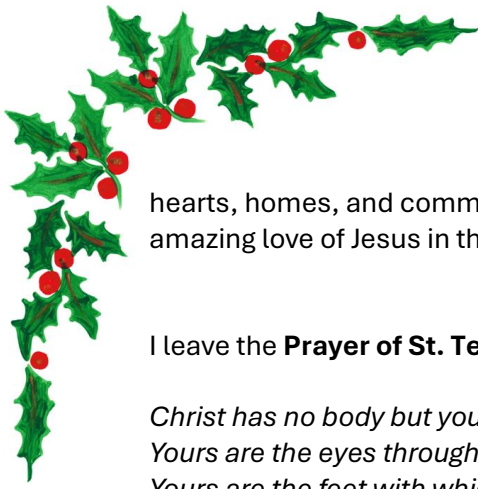
As I reflect on the first chapter of St. Luke's Gospel during this Christmas Novena, I am reminded of the announcement of the most marvellous event that ever happened in this world — the incarnation and birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. This good news was delivered to the Blessed Virgin Mary by the Angel Gabriel declaring, "*You are blessed and highly favoured.*"

As Christians we believe this to mean that God is giving us the grace to fulfil a special assignment. We know for sure that as members, this assignment is the work of Mothers' Union, and our mission is to share the love of Jesus with the world. Although a tall task, we have no fear because just as the Holy Spirit overshadowed Mary, he also spreads his wings and covers us with the assurance that God's Grace is sufficient.

Mary knew that she was going to give birth to Jesus, the light of the world, and through him the course of history would be changed. What is it that will be birthed from us as Mothers' Union in the new triennium that will transform the Church and the world to reflect Christ's Kingdom?

As we look forward to a new triennium, with the peace, hope, and love that the Christ Child brings, my fervent prayer is that we will build on all that has been achieved and move forward together with the vision of our founder Mary Elizabeth Sumner. May her legacy live on in our





hearts, homes, and communities for generations to come. May others experience and share the amazing love of Jesus in the same way that we do in Mothers' Union.

I leave the **Prayer of St. Teresa of Avila** with you.

*Christ has no body but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours.
Yours are the eyes through which he looks with compassion on this world.
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.
Yours are the hands through which He blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now but yours. St. Teresa of Avila (1515-1582)*

As we celebrate this joyful season with family and friends, may our prayers and God's love reach all those who are having a very different Christmas this year.

A Happy and Blessed Christmas from my family to yours!

With my love and prayers as always,
Sheran x

Merry
Christmas

