

Christmas Greetings from the President

December 18, 2020.

Dear Colleagues and Friends of Campion College,

The Season of Advent urges us to slow down and to reflect on the year of 2020 which has been a difficult one for us at the College, for our City, our Province, our Country and for our Globe. None of us anticipated it would be that stressful, and regrettably, many people lost their lives to COVID-19. I can only imagine what this Christmas may feel like for those families directly affected by the pandemic and experiencing such personal losses. Yet, I am glad that Christmas is approaching us to remind us of the gift that each one of us has been to someone else this year. I think of nurses, doctors, caregivers, teachers, parents, spouses, donors, researchers for new vaccine, administrators, librarians, maintenance teams, new policy-makers, volunteers, reach-out agencies, ecclesial ministers through internet worship services, counsellors, crisis consultants, government agencies, pharmaceutical leaders, public health advisors, funeral administrators, IT supporters, artists, social analysts of the pandemic, and many other agents advocating health to all citizens. I cannot recall any time of recent memory before 2020 where almost every sector of our society worked so closely towards public health. In my view, the lesson of 2020 has further humanized us in the mutual care we all experienced and gave.

No doubt, the pandemic has made all of us students again learning together the social values of serving communities. Campion College is no exception in the growth of its Jesuit mission of the wholistic care to our students and employees this year. For the first time, I am aware how the "care of the whole person" in our Mission Statement is in fact a health-related issue. The challenge of 2020 has made us servants with versatile capacity for adaptation and connectedness in the midst of the physical distancing, even under isolation for some of us. The measures we have been observing challenged our energy levels and have escalated our stress level. Christmas break is indeed a welcomed opportunity at the end of this year.

My wish this Christmas for you and me is to remain in gratitude for what we discovered about each one of us in terms of the care we provided. Our God is approaching us gently this Christmas, like a baby's coming: tiny but choosing to grow with us despite the pandemic. We, Christians, are privileged by God's choice and visit of us to be His community of care. The question may be asked: How does a divine being choosing to be human do under physical distancing measure? Since 2020 trained us to adapt, I can imagine our Saviour will grow rather well in our new culture of accommodation to the challenges before us. This is more than a happy chance, rather I infer a grace upon nature.

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Please take time this Christmas to cherish what God desires and does in us as Campion College community. Our work, dedication as educators and education-supporters remains, in my opinion, God's work and mission through our College. The Lord relies on our care for the students He sends us. The Christmas joy is secured by a simple fact of His presence, a willing choice of His.

I would like to end my message this year with sincere gratitude to all that you have done this term. Have a well-deserved rest. Merry Christmas.

Yours,



Sami Helewa, S.J.
President