

January 2010

**Dear Sisters and Brothers,**

A happy and holy New Year to all of you!

This liturgical year, Cycle C, offers Luke as our primary guide. He will offer his unique insights into Jesus to enable us, as followers of Jesus, to appreciate better his perspective and to make it our own. Luke encourages us to remember that the perspective of Jesus was universally inclusive. At the outset of this new year, Luke challenges us to enlarge our hearts and broaden our horizons and see that there is no one — good or bad, Christian, Muslim or Jew, rich or poor, man or woman, citizen or foreigner, documented or undocumented — who is not known and cared for by God.

Luke also has much to say about material goods. The Jesus of Luke is aware of the necessity of earning a living, but is also careful to warn of the dangers of accumulating riches while others go hungry and homeless. As the year unfolds before us, Luke confronts us with the truth that material riches are not portable beyond the grave. They are to be shared with those who have less than we have.

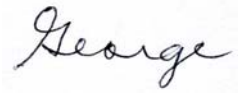
This new year also challenges us to rethink our assessment of women, widows, orphans and the poor, all of whom figured very importantly in the concerns of the Lucan Jesus. These were the voiceless and vote-less of his day, yet their attitude of trust in God is held forth as strength to be admired and acquired.

From the beginning of the Gospel to the end, the Lucan Jesus offers a perspective that runs contrary to that of the world. With this year now beginning, we who profess to belong to him are invited once again to choose through whose eyes we will see and through whose ears we will hear. Then, seeing as Jesus sees, and hearing as he hears, we offer our hands and our hearts to his service.

As we begin this spiritual journey through Luke's gospel, let us pray for the grace to deepen our understanding of Jesus as seen through the eyes of Luke!

Attached to this e-mail is a list of liturgical celebrations for January. Of special note are the observances of the death of Venerable Mother Adèle in 1828 (January 10) and the death of Blessed William Joseph Chaminade in 1850 (January 22).

Affectionately,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

George J. Cerniglia, S.M.  
Assistant for Religious Life