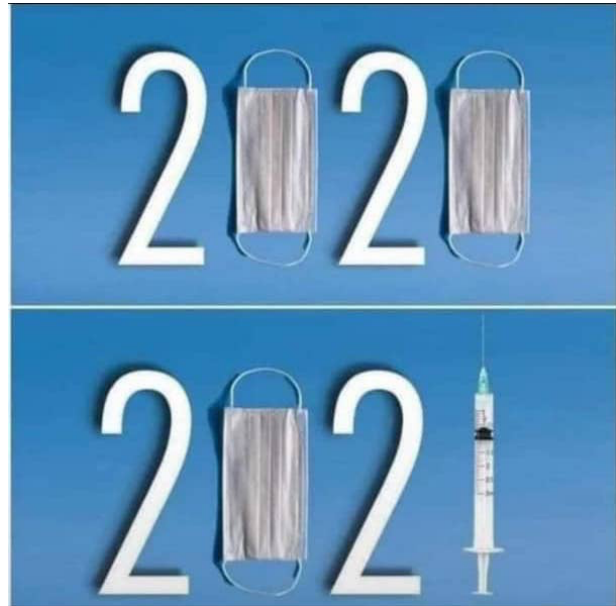

Hi to each and everyone,

Annus Horribilis! Like the preachers of old, I started with Latin words, but no need to translate, right? You have understood very well that I am ready to send the year 2020 to the devil!

However, before jumping to 2021, I want to take stock. When we experience a painful event, we are invited to turn the page. I agree, but in my little head, we turn the page only after reading it! In any case, that's what I propose to myself. So, I reread my year that is coming to an end. It hasn't

been an easy one. The pandemic obviously marked us all. You also live it; you know it as well as I do. I'll tell you about it a little further on. First, let me mention my own ups and downs in health. Indeed, my cardiac arrhythmia that was discovered led me to the hospital on two occasions and left me very weak for a few months. In any case, I dragged my feet and my knees bent easily. Luckily, since Thanksgiving and a second change of medication, I have good reason to thank God because I feel great.

However, I still respect the pandemic. First of all, as a good teacher, she taught me to reconsider large parts of my life, to look at the meaning I put into it and to consider the one I want to give it. When you have time and you are only in front of yourself (pandemic obliges), you can't avoid the big questions about the meaning of life and death, and you look for good answers; I suppose the same goes for you. And then, as a good watchdog, the pandemic keeps me on my toes and still advises me to confine myself. In the current situation, I don't know what you will think about it, but in my little heart, I think I will live Christmas in a very different way. There will be less travel, less overeating, more silence, more reading, more prayer. Indeed, I see Advent and Lent as one this time, with



Christmas as a little break in the middle, like Mi-Carême (Mid-Lent). As soon as we have passed it, we go back to the confinement or rather we stay in there.

But Easter, Yes Easter, I propose to celebrate it in a big way, because I didn't do it in 2020 in spite of the good resolution I told you about in my last Connection. Indeed, I told you with the Little Prince (Saint-Exupéry) that it is good to have rituals. I'll do one on the official date... or at the flowery Passover, God willing, or when the virus bows us out. So Happy Mi-Carême! I look forward to seeing you again for a very Happy Easter!



But I forget. Must be the age! I will probably come back to you sooner because February will give me new topics of conversation. In fact, our Missionary Society (SMÉ) will begin its centennial celebrations in February, and I will also turn the corner of 80 years. Another mid-Lent in sight!

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I wish you much hope and draw my Christmas greeting from a hymn in the French breviary:

« Ce soir peut-être aux pas d'un inconnu,
Nos yeux liront les routes de Jésus,
Visage d'homme aux traits marqués de coups,
Cortège d'hommes aux poings levés vers nous :
Te voir, Seigneur, en tout homme né
Sous ton soleil, pour ta liberté. »