CHRISTMAS MESSAGE (2017) TO THE NATION.

Metropolitan Jonah Lwanga. Uganda Orthodox Church.

Your Nativity

Oh Christ our God, (Is 9:6)

has arisen on the world

as light of wisdom.

For at it

they who worshipped the stars,

were taught by a star; (Mt 2:2,10)

to adore you

the Sun of righteousness

and to know you

the Orient from on high. (Jn 3:16)

Oh Lord

Glory be to you!

Dear Viewers / Listeners!

All of us Christians are here again this year to rejoice while celebrating in a special way the mystery of Incarnation of the Word of God the Father in Jesus Christ, through the Virgin Mary and the Holy Spirit. Is 7:14, Lk 1:35, Eph 3:4-6; 9-12, Jn 1:1-3. As it is well known, this mystery of the incarnation of the word of God, into Christ Jesus the perfect Son of Man, is equally great like the mystery of His resurrection from the dead. Dan 7:13. Mt 12:41. Because, in between these two mysteries, are arrayed all the other miracles relating to the mission of the word of God to us, as the Lord and our Savior Jesus Christ, from Satan our Enemy. Heb 3:1, Mt 3:17; 17:5.

David the king, and one of the prophets on the enfleshment of the Word, invites us all now. Lk 20:43, Ps 110. "All you righteous (believers) sing joyfully to the Lord God, for whatever He has done.... Shout joyfully and praise skillfully with clean hearts! Ps 33:1-. Why should all believers praise and shout with joy? Because, "God (the Father) spoke, and it came to be; He commanded and it stood firm ... Heaven and earth were made by His word". Ps 33:6,9. And His

Spirit took care of creation Gn 1:1-3. Here exactly is where the Apostle John the theologian adds his own witness upon this mystery: "Before the world and earth were made, the Word of God was existing. The Word was with God, and the Word was God ... All things were made through Him, without him nothing was made that has been made ..." Jn 1:1-. This Word, the Son of God in His eternity, descended from heaven for us men and for our salvation. Through the Holy Spirit and of the Virgin Mary, and became Man ..." Lk 1:26-, Nicene creed, § 3.

If now we leave this beginning of the mystery of incarnation of the Word of God, for our unbelieving age, Mk 16:16, Jn 3:18, the following must be strictly observed. That, the Bible in its wholeness (OT and NT) explains and clarifies relations which exist between God and men, through Christ the Word and the Holy Spirit, during the struggle against the Enemy of the will of God. Gn 3:1-, Mt 7:12; 12:50, Jn 6:38-40. Therefore, all people who are in this struggle, as believers or Christians with a sensitive conscience, on the fact of sin in the history of the whole world, together with the Angels praise, rejoice and sing loudly for the incarnation of the Word of God in Christ Jesus. Lk 2:1-20. Because, Himself is the righteous, the imitatable and exemplary in all, as image of God (the Father). St. Paul writes precisely: "the god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God." 2 Cor 4:4. "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created; things in the heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or power or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. And He is the head of the body, the Church; He is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything He might have the supremacy ..." Col 1:15-20, Gn 1:26,27.

As we conclude this message, we wish His Excellence, the president, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni and his family, His Excellence, the Vice President, Edward Kiwanuka Sekandi, the Judiciary, the Ministers, the Members of Parliament; His Highness the Kabaka of Buganda, Ronald Muwenda Mutebi II, Nabagereka Sylivia Nnaginda, Cultural leaders, Leaders of Faith and all Ugandans; the incarnation of the Word of God in our Lord Jesus Christ, that is to say, His Nativity as the righteous Son of Man for the salvation of human race; may be a Feast that enables us all the Christian believers to celebrate joyfully, understanding even the cause that made the Word of God to appear on earth. Amen.