

TO: PMMA Residents, Family Members and Visitors  
PMMA Employees

FROM: Bruce H. Shogren, President/CEO

CC: PMMA Board of Trustees, Senior Leadership & Executive Directors

RE: **"A Christmas Message"**

DATE: December 23, 2021

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During this special time of the year, I have wondered what message I can send or say that does not seem cliché or redundant – especially with what we have been dealing with this entire year. And, a message became apparent through a 1947 classic Christmas movie that does not get quite as much attention as some of the others, but its message is just as heartwarming and inspiring. The movie is the 1947 classic "The Bishop's Wife," with Cary Grant, David Niven, and Loretta Young. Cary Grant's character is an angel named Dudley who has come to help out Henry Brougham an Episcopal Bishop, played by David Niven. The premise for the angel's visit is that the Bishop has lost his way with what is truly important in his life.

I am sure many of our residents are familiar with this classic Christmas movie. But, for those who have not had the pleasure of seeing it and for the sake of my message for this letter, the movie ends with Bishop Brougham preaching a sermon on Christmas Eve. The twist to this sermon is that Dudley (the Angel) secretly replaces the bishop's own sermon with his own heavenly message for the sermon. This was Dudley's final gift to the bishop before Dudley departs for another heavenly assignment. Here is Dudley's sermon that the Bishop delivers on Christmas Eve:

***"Tonight I want to tell you the story of an empty stocking.***

***Once upon a midnight clear, there was a child's cry, a blazing star hung over a stable, and wise men came with birthday gifts. We have not forgotten that night down the centuries. We celebrate it with stars on Christmas trees, with the sound of bells, and with gifts.***

***But especially with gifts. You give me a book, I give you a tie. Aunt Martha has always wanted an orange squeezer and Uncle Henry can do with a new pipe. For we forget nobody, adult or child. All the stockings are filled, all that is, except one. And we have even forgotten to hang it up. The stocking for the child born in a manger. It is his birthday we are celebrating. Do not let us ever forget that.***

***Let us ask ourselves what He would wish for most. And then, let each put in his share, loving-kindness, warm hearts, and a stretched out hand of tolerance. All the shinning gifts that make peace on earth."***

The message is still so very appropriate and valid today as it was in 1947, so I thought it would be a perfect message to share with our residents, their families, our employees and our friends. That simple message of what He would wish for most is true. I could not add one more thing to the original list of loving kindness, warm hearts and stretched out hand of tolerance, which are all the gifts that make peace on earth. Let us try to provide these gifts this Christmas as our gifts to the child born in a manger so very long ago.

As we still navigate COVID during this Christmas and well into 2022, let us not forget these words. These gifts will be our path to winning the war against this ever-changing virus and healing the division that we have seen these past couple years.

From our hearts, the senior leadership team and I wish you and your loved ones a very Safe, Healthy and Merry Christmas, as well as Peace on Earth.

God's Blessings,



Bruce H. Shogren  
President/CEO