

My Two Cent's Worth

By: Joseph Andalina

Merry Christmas/Happy Holidays

Enjoy my holiday message from last year — it says it all.

As the Happy Holidays roll into our lives once again, it means many things to many people. Despite the folks who Bah-Humbug, there are the majority that see in it the revival of hope after a year of many tribunals.

There is war, there is mayhem, there is cancer and other illnesses that destroy, debilitate, and cause death. Accidents, hurricanes, tornados, and earthquakes among other natural disasters.

There are worries about ISIS, Russia, and North Korea. There are dictators. There are utterly hopeless political types. There are economic downturns, poverty and financial devastation. There is the ever-widening hatred of the police to cap it all off.

Okay, you may say where is the happiness? It's here all around you. With all the world's sham and drudgery, it's still a beautiful place. But I agree that sometimes it's hard to find in this world of dysfunction.

There is family, the love of spouses, children of all makes and models. Dogs, cats, rats, and yes, even slithery serpents as pets. Wildlife and the joy of nature abounds. There is richness in green grass, the branches of trees towering about our heads, like skeletons reaching for heaven.

There are the Cubbies, the Sox, the Bulls, our beloved Hawks, and that football team that shall not be named. Health, freedom, and joy in opening your eyes every morning, giving you a chance to be thankful you were given another day.

There is much joy in the grace of God. It's His birthday. We pick a day to celebrate. Presents, food, and hopefully minimum sadness and maximum laughter.

And yes, many of us lose faith as we ask God "Why do you allow all these bad things to happen to us?" He answers, but we don't like the answer. "Why do you allow them to happen?" And yes, why do we?

So this year, let's not. Do your part. Let random acts of kindness abound.

And most of all, be safe and come home for the merriest time of all. After all, there is a matter of fine wine, 30-year scotches, that space shuttle replica, a Red Ryder BB gun (to shoot your eye out) or other great gifts lying under the tree for you. But the greatest gift is home.

I wish happiness to you all. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays in whatever way suits your beliefs.

Vita é bella