



# 2021 MADE "NEW" BY ALL

BY Mario J. Paredes

Within every heart and in every corner of the world, the beginning of a new year is filled with good wishes, good intentions, and the best resolutions. This new year is—especially and uniquely—full of our best wishes, because, in this new year 2021, we want to leave behind all the bad news and difficulties that humanity experienced in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In these next lines, I want to express to you some of my best wishes for all of you, for this Nation, and for the entire world as we approach the dawn of 2021.

Here in the United States of America, we begin with a new government led by Democrat Joe Biden. Every new presidential administration brings new approaches to its country, which fills us with hope. ... Many of us dream that this Nation is heading, once again, toward better and more prosperous paths than those we walk now, paths that will lead us to promote equality, justice, and peace; to new and better relationships between our Nation and the other Nations of the world, to openness, respect, and dialogue, but, above all, toward a government that works hard, intensely, to restore and rebuild our broken, fragmented, divided, and polarized social fabric and coexistence. We dream of a government that works, with the support of all, to reestablish everything that has made this Nation a great, powerful, and prosperous society with a stable democracy and that serves as a model for the concert of the world's nations. We dream of a government that fosters space for dialogue, conciliation, and agreement, respect and tolerance, solidarity and freedom of expression, forgiveness, and reconciliation, honesty, and transparency.

We dream of a government that, with the effort and commitment of all, succeeds in preserving all the good that has been achieved during our history as a nation and in redesigning and reformulating the best principles of our social coexistence, so undermined and broken right now.

We dream of a government that, with the work and effort of all, summons us, unites us, guides us in the search and daily struggle for the best and noblest ideals, for the good of all of us who live here, and that rejects all forms of partisan pettiness, messianism, populism, and ideological fanaticisms that only produce division, discrimination, intolerance, racism, violence, destruction, and death.

We dream of a government that works—as a priority and permanently, and not just during a pandemic—toward the health of all and that ensures health as a fundamental good of the human person and a right, not just for a few, but for all, and especially for the neediest among us. We dream of a government that fights so that health is no longer seen as a business and an opportunity for profit and earnings and begins to be considered an essential good for the well-being of the person and all of society in all its areas, including the economy.

With the incoming administration, I hope that a solution will be found, once and for all and forever, for the urgencies of the immigrant population in the United States. It is time to find justice for the millions of men and women who, through their labor, help build the greatness of this Nation, but who, at the same time and because they are undocumented, are condemned to situations of ostracism, discrimination, inequity, overcrowding, and misery. It is time for politicians, leaders, and legislators to agree to not prolong this suffering, this social agony, which is so detrimental to the greatness, democracy, and the exercise and respect of human rights of this Nation before the rest of the world.

I hope that the terrible experience of the pandemic leaves us with the best experiences, lessons, and practices in other fields equally important for the life of this nation, such as the right to education and work, as well as respect for nature with a clearer and more effective awareness of the necessary and urgent need to care for and preserve our "common home" and learn from the messages that the epidemics and natural catastrophes that we endure daily bring us, directly or indirectly.

Whether that prosperity reaches us all in this new year depends on our commitment, honest effort, and work in searching for the common good. The prosperity, justice, and peace of this Nation and of the world requires of us all a communal, daily, and ongoing effort to give the best of ourselves in our everyday lives where we write our personal, family, and work stories.

I wish you all a happy year, but I wish that—for this—we become better people, better family members, better friends, better leaders, and better citizens of this Nation and the world.

*Happy New Year 2021!*