



Merry Christmas to all!

Joyeux Noël à tous et toutes!

From:

*Bishop Albert Thievenot, M. Afr.
and Pastoral Center Staff*



A Christmas Letter from our Bishop

On the flight home from my last conference, I noticed from above the homes sparkling with festive colourful lights. Christmas is upon us.

At the beginning of his last exhortation on the Word of God (Verbum Domini), Pope Benedict comments on the Word of God as the source of life and that this Word became flesh in the person of Christ. This child lay in a manger, vulnerable and fragile, under the eyes of Mary and Joseph. As new parents looking at their first born, their hearts were full of such joy.

The birth of a child in any family brings happiness, not only to the parents, but also to the grandparents and family members. We see in this child the beautiful gift of life in all its fragility. It invites us to respect life in a very special way. As we say in one of the Eucharistic prayers; conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, a man like us in all things but sin!

The Word became flesh so that God may be among us and in our lives. It is through our daily routines and through the banality of our actions, done in love, that we are able to continue to transform our world into the Body of Christ.

As we share in our family gatherings, may our meals be full of laughter and joy, let us wrap our gifts in love and forgiveness, and may our hearts be open to those in most need. Christmas is special, for unto us a child is born; God among us.

May this Spirit of the birth of Christ be with us throughout the New Year.

+ Albert Thievenot

Message de Noël de notre évêque

Récemment, je revenais en avion d'une conférence, et j'ai pu apercevoir d'en haut les lumières multicolores qui ornent les maisons à ce temps de l'année. Noël sera vite arrivé.

Sa Sainteté le Pape Benoît XVI, au début de sa dernière exhortation au sujet de la Parole de Dieu (Verbum Domini), nous rappelle que la Parole de Dieu est source de vie et que cette Parole a pris chair humaine dans la personne du Christ. Cet enfant si fragile et si vulnérable est couché dans une crèche et est admiré par ses parents. Marie et Joseph ont le cœur rempli d'une telle joie à la vue de leur premier-né.

L'arrivée d'un enfant dans une famille apporte la joie non seulement aux parents mais aussi aux grands-parents et aux autres membres de la famille. Cet enfant dans la crèche représente pour nous le merveilleux don de la vie dans toute sa fragilité et nous appelle à respecter cette vie d'une façon spéciale. Comme nous disons dans une des prières eucharistiques : conçu du Saint-Esprit, né de la Vierge Marie, un homme comme nous mais sans péché!

La Parole devint chair pour que Dieu soit avec nous et dans nos vies! C'est dans nos actions et nos routines quotidiennes les plus banales, mais faites avec amour, que nous arriverons à transformer le monde en Corps du Christ.

A nos réunions de familles, que les rires résonnent à nos repas, que les cadeaux soient enveloppés d'amour et de pardon et que nos cœurs soient ouverts à ceux qui en ont le plus besoin. Noël est important pour nous car un enfant nous est donné, Dieu parmi nous.

Que l'esprit du Christ nouveau-né soit avec vous au cours de la nouvelle année!

+ Albert Hereszt



May the simple gift of love this Christmas light your world with the Peace of God as the miracle of Christmas leads you into a new year filled with God's blessings, warm in the Light of Christ.

Heidi Epp, Liturgy Commission

"Christ is born! Let us glorify Him!" We can each "glorify" God through living and acting – being - Christ to every young person in our parish community. Think of yourself on a great day where you are kind, loving, welcoming, playful and generous. Most youth would give anything to have adults receive them in this way and this alone would make them truly light up! Perhaps the greatest gift you can give this year to the youth of your parish – is you. May you abundantly bless others as they encounter Christ incarnated in and through you this year. I sincerely pray that you, your family and your parish have a blessed Christmas and New Year together.

Warren Dungen, Youth Ministry

En cette nuit de Noël, rassemblons-nous pour célébrer la naissance du Christ. Que l'amour de Dieu vous procure de nouvelles joies et de nouveaux plaisirs!

Joyeux Noël et bonne et heureuse année! Wishing to you and yours the most blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Thérèse Gareau, C.P.F.I.S.

(Conseil pastoral francophone interdiocésain de la Saskatchewan)

In his 1927 *Address to the American People*, President Coolidge defined Christmas in a way that speaks to Christians of all nations:

Christmas is not a time or a season but a state of mind. To cherish peace and good will, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas. If we think on these things, there will be born in us a Savior and over us will shine a star sending its gleam of hope to the world.

Like Mary, may we ponder these things in our hearts as we receive the Eucharist this Christmastide, praying that Christ may shine in and through us, giving hope to the world.

With every good wish during the coming year, yours faithfully,
Michael E. Averyt, Adult Faith Education



Traditionally, the sacred Christmas season starts with Advent, which begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas and continues to Christmas Day. The sacred season ends on Epiphany, January 6.

Jesus Christ gave the message of love, mercy and compassion to the entire mankind. No other great leader has inspired so many positive changes in the lives of his followers. People who encounter the risen Christ are totally transformed.

May you have the spirit of Christmas which is peace, the gladness of Christmas which is hope and the heart of Christmas which is love. Joyeux Noël!

Yvette Gareau, Archivist

"In the history of Christian art, Jesus has appeared with every possible skin tone, every possible hairstyle, every possible eye shape. Why? Because Jesus is bigger than anything that we can name or picture. The color of Jesus is the color of love. The shape of Jesus' eyes is the shape of love" (Corbin Eddy). And this Jesus has taken root in our lives! May his love shine in and through us, and peace reign in our hearts and in the world. May you have a wonderful Christmas and many blessings in the New Year.

Sr. Rose-Marie Sanche, Resource Centre

It's the time of the year when both Christians and non-Christians prepare for the joyful celebration and festivity of the Christmas season. 'Tis the season for buying, giving and receiving gifts; helping those in need through charitable donations: partying in schools, at work, in neighborhood; sending cards and letters, listening to, and singing Christmas songs and carols.

Lest we forget, this is also the time of the year when we prepare ourselves spiritually through genuine prayers and true repentance. In doing so, we are able to truly appreciate, fully understand, and joyfully celebrate the real and true meaning of Christmas - Jesus Christ!

May all our preparations and celebrations be a Christmas in our hearts!

Fr. Alberto Dela Pena, Liturgy Commission



Christmas is my favourite time of the year! Soon we will be celebrating this remarkable feast of God's love, of God's coming to us as a small, helpless child in a manger. The world has never been the same since. This was possible because of a small child, born of a young woman Mary who said "Yes" to God. He brought us life as we never experienced before.

May this celebration of the birth of Jesus bring you peace, joy, and serenity of heart and soul. May this Christmas be the best ever for you and for those you love! May the new year, 2011, bring you good health, and much joy, hope and peace.

Rev. Maurice Fiolleau, Vicar General

Again we prepare ourselves to celebrate the coming of the one who did come and is still coming to bring His love and His peace, His love to everyone, with their imperfections and sins.

In order to experience his peace we have to try to imitate him and accept our brothers and sisters, as they are, with all their imperfections, the same way He accepted and loved us. It is the only way we will feel the peace He wants for us, and be, ourselves, the change we sometimes want to see in the people we meet everyday, in our world.

Fr. Ghislain Gaudet
Chancellor

Let Christ be the central focus of your Christmas Season. May the spirit of His presence be your gift and the light of His life be the center of yours.

Wishing each and every one of you a Christ filled Christmas

Rev. Greg Elder, Vice-Chancellor & Tina Elliott, Chancery Secretary

Let us remember to keep the Christmas Spirit in our hearts the whole year through. Peace, joy & love to all!

Karen Chamberlain
Bishop's secretary



May the joy and happiness of Christmas be with you all through the Year. In this busy time of year we often forget what is important, being together with friends and family. Wishing you all the best this season and praying you are safe for the holidays.

Merry Christmas.

Roger Paulhus, Diocesan Finance Manager

“What is Christmas? It is tenderness for the past, courage for the present, hope for the future. It is a fervent wish that every cup may overflow with blessings rich and eternal, and that every path may lead to peace.” Agnes M. Pharo

May your Christmas be filled with tenderness, courage, hope and peace! Que la paix et la promesse de Noël vous remplissent le coeur de joie. Joyeux Noël!

Janine Allard, Finance Secretary

May the Spirit of the birth of Christ bring you peace, joy and happiness through this Christmas season and always. Trust in Him and you will be forever loved.

Merry Christmas!

Tina Elliott, Marriage Tribunal Office

May you find rest, relaxation and a sense of peace during this busy season with your loved ones.

Merry Christmas, Joyeux Noël!

Paula Fournier, Programs Secretary & Website Editor



Too often, we see Christmas as a celebration of the birth of Christ and forget that, in reality it is an expression of God's love for each of us. God considers each of us so special, He loves us so much, that He sent us his Son. It is the wish of the Stewardship Development Office that you follow your dreams and believe in yourself as much as God does because someone as special as you has the ability to create a world of wonderful tomorrows. May you be blessed with peace, joy and happiness now and throughout the coming year.

Laurent Fournier, Bishop's Annual Appeal and Stewardship

The gifts of peace and of love that our new born Savior brings to us at Christmas is the same gifts that I pray each one of you will receive now and throughout the year.

From my family to yours have a very Merry Christmas and a very happy and healthy New Year.

Louis Hradecki, Social Justice

During this holy season, I would like to thank all the catechists who have offered up their ministry to teach the children of our diocese and include a heartfelt prayer of gratitude to those who have contributed to the Bishop's Annual Appeal whose donations make the workings of this office possible. May each of you catch a glimpse of Christ, the Light of the World, in the Advent Candles. May this holy season be a time for your families to rediscover Christ, the incarnate Word of God, in the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in the manger. May these holy days of the Advent and Christmas Seasons be full of blessings for you and your families.

Leaving nothing undared for the Kingdom,
Christine Taylor, Diocesan Children's Catechetics