

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



Dear Father, Deacon and Parishioners,

I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful Christmas. This is the time of the year when we recognize signs of the Lord's presence among us. I believe that the gift of family life is one of those signs that reminds us that God chose to send his Son to a family. God came into the world in a family; God did not want to come into the world other than through a family. God drew near to humanity through a home and God's name is Emmanuel (cf. Mt 1:23), "God with us".

May this celebration of Christmas remind us that "God is with us" in this diocese, that God ministers to us in the pastoral care offered through priests, deacons and laity. I am very grateful for the generous ministry that you provide throughout this diocese.

May this Christmas, within this Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, help us to rediscover the infinite mercy of the Father who welcomes everyone and goes out personally to encounter each of us. May it be a year in which we grow ever more convinced of God's mercy and express this mercy in new ways in our everyday relationships.

May this celebration of the birth of Christ into our world and into our hearts inspire you to enjoy the gift of family life and the gift of the Lord's Mercy.

With best wishes,

+ Brian J. Dunn