

To the Clergy, Religious, and Lay Faithful of the Diocese of Fargo:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Merry Christmas! The joyful sounds of Christmas lift our spirits today, and our hearts are filled with thanksgiving at the coming of Christ, the Son of God, into the world. The song of angels is just the first acclamation of joy to announce our Savior's birth, and our songs of rejoicing continue their great chorus.

I also invite you to consider the silence of Christmas: the quiet adoration of Mary and Joseph, and the silent vigil of the shepherds. I encourage you to find a few quiet minutes this Christmas before Christ in the crib. Look upon him and know that he has come to save us and bring us the gift of God's love and mercy.

As you celebrate Christmas, I pray that you and all your loved ones will experience once again the grace of our Savior's birth in your lives. Be assured of a special remembrance in my prayers and especially at Mass this Christmas. May God bless you and grant you his peace.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+John T. Folda
Bishop of Fargo