



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Christmas 2025

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light" (Isaiah 9:2)

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

It seems at this present moment that we are walking in darkness. Our world and country are facing many challenges that seem overwhelming at times. It is becoming increasingly more difficult to see a way forward. That is why we need the light.

In the first chapter of the Gospel of John we read the following: "There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world" (John 1:6-9).

John is referring to Jesus, who tells us that he is the Light of the World: "I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in the darkness" (John 12:46).

At Christmas we celebrate the fact that Jesus was born in Bethlehem. The light has entered the world so that we would be saved from the darkness of sin and death. Here we see the great generosity of God the Father in giving to us the gift of his only begotten Son.

As we know, shades of darkness remain in our world. As followers of Jesus, we still need to "testify to the light so that all may believe in him". A powerful way for us to do this is to be generous and follow the example of God the Father who gave us Jesus, the Light of the World.

Across our diocese, I have been inspired by many faith-filled individuals who have given of their time, talents, and financial resources to spread the light of Christ by helping others. Their actions remind me of how blessed I am to be your bishop.

Thank you for your generosity and love. You are indeed helping many who walk in darkness to see a great light. At Christmas and throughout the year this helps to strengthen the weary and inspire hope.

May Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, grant you a joyous Christmas and a grace-filled New Year.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Gerard Bergie, D.D.

Bishop of St. Catharines

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