

2018 Christmas Message to the Faithful and Clergy of the Diocese of Kalamazoo

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we celebrate the beautiful Feast of Christmas this year, we are experiencing turmoil and confusion due to the fractured state of affairs in our country, our world and our Church.

And yet, that is exactly why we need to celebrate Christmas this year with great joy and confidence. It was for *that very reason* that God sent His only-begotten Son into the world. Jesus was born so that He could reconcile the world, and so that He could be the “Bridge” between us humans and the Divine One: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

This year, as our Diocese has just been consecrated to the special intercession of our Blessed Mother, may we follow her example and say “yes” to love, unity, and being joyful witnesses of the Gospel of Jesus; and say “no” to anything that divides us or separates us from God, especially in the midst of the confusion and turmoil around us.

May you have a joyful celebration of Christmas, and a New Year filled with blessings and the willingness to say “yes” to Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

Faithfully yours in the Word made Flesh,

Bishop Paul J. Bradley

Bishop of Kalamazoo