



DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

Christmas 2011 Message

My dear friends,

I extend good wishes this Christmas season to you and your family. Over the past several weeks, we have been preparing to celebrate the birth of the Lord at Christmas and awaiting his return in glory.

Experiencing the troubling times of a depressed economy, high unemployment, and so many of our men and women far from home fighting in war torn areas of the world, we can easily become disheartened and fearful. Yet, the birth of the Lord is a beacon of hope. This blessed season reminds us that God took on human form, in the gift of his son, to walk with us through joy and sorrow until he calls us to our eternal home in glory.

I pray that the Lord who came to bring us hope and grace will pour out his generous blessing upon each of you. May your hearts be open to receive the love of God bestowed to you. May your days be filled with his glory and peace.

I wish you and your families and all people of good will a blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with God's many blessings.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

Most Rev. Walter A. Hurley
Bishop of Grand Rapids