



Office of the Archbishop
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Christmas 2016

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Peace be with you and with all people of good will in this holy season.

After observing the Jubilee Year of Mercy and as we begin a journey of renewal in the Archdiocese of Chicago, we have come to know fresh hope in our hearts. We do not find the source of our hope in our own strength. With the Blessed Virgin Mary we recognize that our hope comes from God. As her son took flesh within her womb, she proclaimed, "God has remembered his promise of mercy." The birth of her son Jesus is also the birth of our true and lasting hope.

In this moment, we find ourselves challenged in so many ways. Together, we face the plague of war, violence, and a lack of respect for life and for the dignity of all people. On a personal level, we all struggle in different ways, whether with family issues or work or illness or in trying to do the right thing. Still, we hope, because "God has visited his people."

Pray with me that our celebration of the birth of Jesus may truly renew our hope in God, the only hope that can sustain us on the journey.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Card. Blase J. Cupich".

Cardinal Blase J. Cupich
Archbishop of Chicago