



**Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon**  
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**Dear Clergy, Religious, and People of God of the Diocese of Saskatoon:**

We celebrate yet another Christmas season. This is a time when we exclaim, “Emmanuel – God is with Us!”

For many people I speak with – this joyous and festive time comes suddenly and quickly. *Ready or not, here comes The Saviour!!* Each year we celebrate how the Son of God comes into the midst of our human existence and reality ...*as one like ourselves in all things...but sin.* He is *the light* that infuses all darkness; He is *the hope* that persists despite anxiety or despair; He is *the way* that shows to the world that God’s love will always bring healing and life to the worst human failures and wantonness.

This has been a year when many of us have been disappointed by a wide-spread sense of disunity and fractiousness, and a retreat into narrow and partisan perspectives as we deal with important world-wide issues that require peoples and nations to come together to solve difficult and complex challenges.

It has also been a year in which we have been made aware of a ‘lowering of the bar’ when it comes to the conduct of leaders in all environments, and a question by many, “Is it really possible to live noble and excellent lives?” The answer comes at Christmas – “Yes it is!” Jesus Christ is *the* noble and excellent One – the Saviour – Who is the way, the truth, and the life. He is the One who reveals to us the best of human character and conduct. He is the ‘prototype’ of what it means to be “fully human, fully alive.” His message and life is the way through the most complex problems we face.

Let us all be inspired by Our Saviour. The Christmas event is about more than we may think – he redeems us from all our oppressors – especially those we cannot readily see, that prevent us from realizing the good we all long for.

I also take this opportunity to thank you all so very much for your prayers, support and faithful work as God’s holy people. I also thank you for your inspiration and desire to realize the call to holiness. Let’s us continue to help each other this coming 2019 to *have the same mind and heart as Christ!*

Sincerely in Our Saviour,

✠ Most Reverend Mark A. Hagemoen

 In all things we are *rooted in Christ*,  
in His desire to bring God’s love to all peoples.