



Sunday, December 2, 2012

Dear Friends in Christ,

It is my pleasure to greet you this first Sunday of Advent, a time of great anticipation and of wonder at the awesome love God has for us as we prepare ourselves for the birth of His Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ.

This is my first email to you in what I hope will be the beginning of an ongoing conversation about our Catholic faith and how that faith fits into our lives in today's world. It is clear that there are many demands on the time of Catholic families and finding time for God, a place for Him in our lives can be a challenge. Perhaps a regular conversation between us can help you in sifting through life's clutter to achieve more balance, to achieve your spiritual goals and those of your family.

Traditionally, we bishops have utilized such methods of communication as diocesan newspaper columns, letters shared through pastors for reading at Masses or distribution in the bulletin and, of course, homilies from the pulpit. All of these are still effective tools for sharing the Gospel. But today's technology makes more personal and more immediate communication possible.

That said, I will not be inundating you with emails. I am respectful of your privacy and of your time. However, in this Year of Faith when we are each called to deepen our relationship with Christ and His Church, I am hopeful that engaging in these "e-conversations" from time-to-time will make attaining these spiritually-rewarding goals much more possible for us both. Through our Archdiocesan website, we are making available special prayers and other Year of Faith resources for Catholic families. These can be accessed by visiting the [Archdiocese of Baltimore website](#) and clicking on the Year of Faith feature at the top of the page. You may also read about how the Year of Faith is being celebrated in the Archdiocese of Baltimore at the [Catholic Review](#).

Please know of my prayers for you and your family this Advent and Christmas. And please remember me occasionally among those for whom you regularly pray. I am so very grateful to be your Archbishop and look forward to growing together with you in our Catholic faith as we seek to serve God through the mission entrusted to us at our Baptism.

Faithfully in Christ,



Archbishop William Lori
Archbishop of Baltimore