



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Christmas 2018

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

In the Gospel of St. Luke we find a beautiful account of the birth of Jesus. We are told that after the angels had appeared to the shepherds they went with haste to Bethlehem to share what the angel had said to them about the child. The Gospel states that “Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart” (Luke 2:19). This simple response offers us an example to follow today.

In a world filled with noise and distractions, we need to learn how to ‘ponder’ and Mary shows us the way. In the presence of Jesus, the Son of God, she listened to the shepherds, valued their words, and took time to reflect upon their meaning. We can say that she ‘took to heart’ all that she had experienced in that humble manger over two thousand years ago.

Unfortunately, in our busy lives we do not take the time to go deep. It is much easier to be superficial and remain on the surface. We need to follow the example of Mary and go to the heart where we can ponder the experiences of life in the presence of God. Here we will see how God is working in our lives and in our world.

The Feast of Christmas reminds us that Jesus has been born into our hearts and this is our greatest treasure. Like the shepherds we need to go with haste to Him in order to share our hopes and joys, our fears and sorrows. We need to ponder and pray in His presence.

It is my hope and prayer that during this Holy Season we will take the time to appreciate the many blessings of life, especially our faith, family and friends. Let us follow the example of the Mother of God and treasure these things and ponder their significance in our hearts.

I wish you a blessed Christmas and a grace-filled New Year.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Gerard Bergie, D.D.
Bishop of St. Catharines