

Apostolate Letter - January 1, 2007

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

May God bless you as we enter the new year!

The past weeks have been the time of gift giving and celebrating families and friendships. I hope among all the gifts and the friendships, that you have been able to find the greatest Gift and the greatest Friend – the Christ whom the shepherds discovered in the manger in Bethlehem?

Pope John Paul II reminded us that when God gives each of us a gift, it is not only a gift to the one to whom it is given, but it is a gift to be given to others. The Father has given us the gift of Jesus and the more we treasure this Gift and this Friendship with Jesus, the more we want others to receive this Gift and share in this Friendship.

One of the gifts we have which costs nothing in giving to others is the gift of the smile that expresses our joy in knowing and loving Jesus – Mother Teresa says that Joy is the net that catches souls.

A friend of mine shortly before dying dictated the following to her sister – “I consider myself blessed to have held the best policy of greeting people with a big smile at all times.”

The intentions I wish to propose to you for the month of January are the following:

1. **General** - For the way of peace and understanding among peoples
That in our time, unfortunately marked by many episodes of violence, the Pastors of the Church may continue to indicate the way of peace and understanding among peoples.
2. **Mission** - For Promotion of reconciliation and peace in Africa
That the Church in Africa may become a constantly more authentic witness of the Good News of Christ and promote reconciliation and peace in every nation.
3. **Diocesan** - For all Religious leaders
That they may always preach what is true and good and live accordingly.

May God bless you.

Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend David J. Monroe
Bishop of Kamloops
DJM/dd