



BISHOP OF HAMILTON

Christmas 2014

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Christmas is supposed to be a time of joy and peace. The birth of Christ in a manger is presented in soft and beautiful terms. The message and the music of angels announces the divine nature of the event. However, in human terms, the story of the birth of Jesus is filled with hardship, rejection and flight. The love of Mary, the determination of Joseph, and the devotion of the shepherds lessen the horror of homelessness and migration.

We have seen that horror most recently in the lives of too many people who have been forced to flee their homes because of decrees that have caused death, destruction, and despair. These people have left everything – their homes, their jobs, their belongings. But, despite threats they have clung to their faith in Jesus Christ – their sole hope!

This Christmas, remember these people – sisters and brothers in faith. Pray for them. One day they may be sitting beside you in your parish church praying in thanksgiving for the welcome they received and for the religious freedom we experience here.

We have many rich blessings – which must be protected and shared. Remain alert that they not be lost. Share them generously, so they may be enjoyed by others.

Sincerely in Christ and Mary Immaculate,

(Most Rev.) Douglas Crosby, OMI
Bishop of Hamilton

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