



## BISHOP OF HAMILTON

Christmas 2018

### ONE BLESSED NIGHT!

Dear friends,

As we approach Christmas, I am usually invited to a variety of special events. Andrew Miller's Christmas Cantata, *The Birth of Christ*, sponsored by Salt & Light Media Foundation, was held at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King. It was an absorbing evening of music and song. The final words of the cantata summed up the experience: "One Blessed Night!" The story was told of that "Blessed Night" two thousand years ago, and in the musical recounting, we experienced yet another "blessed night". The story is familiar – we hear it every year; and every year we are moved by its simplicity and its significance. Every year this story touches our hearts and changes lives.

I was invited to an annual dinner, dance, and visit by Santa, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and a family of means for the L'Arche communities in Hamilton. Core members of L'Arche and those who support them were present, including many family members. I watched a young woman care for her brother who has been with L'Arche for a good part of his life. Three words came to my mind: broken, beautiful, and loved! As with the members of L'Arche, so for us all – broken, beautiful and loved!

The angels first announced the news of the birth of the Christ child to shepherds who lived outside of the village. At that time, they were held in some disdain. Yet they heard the world-changing news first!

May we hear it again this year, with the awe and wonder felt by the shepherds. May we experience the beauty and love they must have felt when they first laid eyes on Him. May our lives be transformed by the experience, once again, of that "Blessed Night"!

Sincerely in Christ and Mary Immaculate,

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

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