



GRATITUDE AND HOPE

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Peace and wellbeing to you and to your families during these short but beautiful days of falling leaves and fading sunsets.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving this week and the beginning of the Holy Season of Advent this Sunday, I think of the words “Gratitude and Hope.” As we gather with our families to celebrate Thanksgiving, I want to offer you my prayers and blessings. Thanksgiving Day is one of my favorite American traditions because it invites us all as a nation to stop our routines, gather as families and be grateful to God. This is a great time of the year when we want to reflect on God’s abundant love for us and the many ways we are gifted by His grace.

I am sure we all have many reasons to be grateful to God and to many people, and this is a great opportunity to do so. I hope that your Thanksgiving Day will be a time of rejoicing, resting, delicious eating and bonding with your loved ones. As you enjoy the feast, please remember to pray for those sisters and brothers who are hungry and alone. May they also receive God’s blessings and the consolation they need through other generous hands. November 28 is our first Sunday of Advent, and we begin our journey of Hope, waiting in anticipation at the coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Advent is a wonderful time for us to pray and reflect on the ways we can prepare ourselves to welcome our Savior at Christmas. It is a great time that gives us the opportunity to center our thoughts on the Hope God offers to our lost and dying world. I pray that this will be a time for you and your families to come closer to God.

If we are intentional in our living of Advent, we can experience the joy and true meaning of Christmas. After a tumultuous year, there is comfort to be found when we pause to pray, read, and reflect over the next four weeks of Advent. Let us take time to set off our hearts and minds from the stresses of the year and the craziness of shopping.

May we be filled with the hope and promise of salvation as we light the first candle of the Advent wreath. May we allow ourselves to focus our thoughts on the gifts God has given us in his Son Jesus who stepped down from heaven and took the form of a man so that we might believe and trust in Him.

In Christ’s Love,

BISHOP ALBERTO ROJAS

