



*Office of the Bishop*

# CHRISTMAS

*call to sharing* 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Birthdays; we usually mark and celebrate them beginning with the first year and every year following. One exception would be the case of a famous person, like George Washington, deciding to celebrate his birthday only after his death and because of the great things he did during his lifetime.

Our celebration of the birth of Jesus would be one such case. There's no evidence that his birthday was celebrated during his lifetime. It might be said that the decision to celebrate the birth of Jesus was made after his death and resurrection, and because of it and the other great things Jesus did and said during his lifetime.

The birthday boy or girl is usually honored by throwing a party and giving gifts. May I suggest we honor the birth of Jesus by giving a gift in support of our 32 retired priests and to help pay for the education of our 47 seminarians?

I think this would be fitting on account of the connection between the birth of Jesus, his death and resurrection, and those who are called and set apart as priests to proclaim this good news.

Your birthday gift will benefit our retired priests, like Fr. Jake Roth, who has been preaching, offering Holy Mass, and faithfully living and ministering as a priest for 54 years. Your gift will also help educate our seminarians like Marco DeLoera, Dan Duling, John Fogliasso, and Jeremy Huser who, God willing, will be ordained to the priesthood next May.

Won't you consider placing a money gift in the envelope marked *Christmas Call to Sharing*, and then put it in the collection basket on Christmas day?

With prayerful best wishes for a blessed Christmas and New Year, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Michael O. Jackels  
Bishop of Wichita