

December 8, 2011

«Addressee»
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«City» «State» «ZIP_Code»

“And you, child, will be called prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give his people knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins...” – Luke 1:76-77

Dear «Salutation»,

God is good all the time! This is a saying I use often to express my gratitude to the Lord who has given us the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of our sins. The photo in the corner was taken last year at the Cathedral during Christmas. As I knelt before our savior, I prayed for each of you here in Northeastern Wisconsin to have a blessed Christmas. This Christmas, I will do so again.

Christmas is a special season when we come together and celebrate the birth of Jesus. Our parishes overflow with families gathered to pray and rejoice. My hope and prayer is that this Christmas enthusiasm carries forward throughout 2012. Just imagine if all our churches were bursting at the seams every weekend. This is possible with your help.

As the New Year approaches, I would like to ask you to make a resolution to increase the time you give to God by one hour a week. If you attend Mass weekly, spend nine minutes more a day in prayer. If all 100,000 Catholic families responded to this resolution, our churches would be overflowing.

God is good all the time! Included with this letter is a special prayer intention card. If you have any intentions for which you would like me to pray, please share them with me and return the card in the enclosed envelope by December 21, 2011. I will remember your intentions at the Christmas Eve Mass that is broadcast on WLUK Fox 11 at 9 p.m.

Merry Christmas to you and all your loved ones.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David L. Ricken". The first letter 'D' is large and stylized, with a horizontal line extending from its top. The rest of the name is written in a cursive, flowing script.

The Most Reverend David L. Ricken, DD, JCL
Bishop of Green Bay