



*Thanksgiving Greeting
from the Catholic Bishops of Western Washington*

November 16, 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

When those of us here in Western Washington gather together with family and friends to celebrate Thanksgiving, people of many faiths will pause to give God thanks for His abundant blessings. This beautiful tradition, which pre-dates the establishment of the United States, remains a powerful testament to core American values and to our constitutional right to religious freedom.

It is good that we, as Christians, give thanks not only for our freedom to publicly proclaim that Jesus is Lord but also for our right to apply this truth in action as faithful citizens. We, the Catholic Bishops of the state of Washington, are most grateful to you for the many ways that we see you put your faith into action.

As you make plans for the holiday, we encourage you to participate in and provide prayers of support for two special observances which surround Thanksgiving:

- Sunday November 18th - Annual World Day of the Poor: Established by Pope Francis, this observance calls us to widen our hearts, to hear the cry of the poor, and to focus our attention on those who do not fully share in the many blessings that we have received. All are invited to participate in "moments of encounter and friendship, solidarity, and concrete assistance" with people in poverty. Through God's grace, these encounters will transform not only the lives of those we meet, but our own hearts as well.
- Sunday November 25th - Feast of Christ the King: Established by Pope Pius XI in response to growing European secularism following World War I, this Solemnity reminds the faithful that no one but Christ reigns as King of the entire world. This year's celebration encourages us to rededicate ourselves to serving Christ the King in every aspect of our lives.

A blessed Thanksgiving to you and your loved ones!

Sincerely in Christ,

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Most Rev. J. Peter Sartain
Archbishop of Seattle

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Most Rev. Eusebio Elizondo, M.Sp.S.
Auxiliary Bishop of Seattle

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Most Rev. Daniel H. Mueggenborg
Auxiliary Bishop of Seattle