

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

200 MILITARY ROAD
P.O. BOX 37
ST. JOHN'S, NL A1C 5H5



Telephone (709) 726-3660

Fax (709) 753-5600

abpcurrie@rcsj.org

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Since I became your Archbishop, I have been writing Christmas letters to you. Eleven years, eleven letters. Now, we come to this last letter that I will write to you. There is sadness in this; there is also great, even overflowing gratitude.

Each year, I have tried to reflect with you on some aspect of the wondrous story of Christmas, trying to proclaim the Good News to you, the Good News that on that first Christmas, God became human, God became one of us.

In Bethlehem, God took on human flesh and walked among us. Why? Well, theologians and people of faith have been pondering that question since the very beginning. Myself, I believe that the answer to that question is very simple. God became human out of love. God so loved the world that God left Heaven in order to walk among us, to share our lot, to experience all that we experience, except sin, of course. But why did God choose to come as a weak, even helpless baby, born to a displaced couple in a barn meant for animals? Again, I think that the answer is very simple: who could not love a baby? God took on human flesh in order to be one of us, to be loved by us, to be known by us.

The only fitting response to such love is, "Thank you." And that is my response at this moment as I prepare to say good-bye to you. God took flesh in Bethlehem in the most definitive way. In another, very real way, for the past eleven years, you have shown me the face of God. In January, your new Archbishop, Peter Hundt, will be installed, and I will begin the next stage of my life. As I think back on the past eleven years, I am filled with gratitude. I am grateful for having been entrusted with the pastoral care of this flock; I am grateful for each and every one of you. We have been a family, one great Archdiocesan family. Like every family, we have had good times and bad, joys and sorrows, but we have consistently sought ways to communicate well, to attend to the needs of the least among us, to celebrate the joys, mourn the sorrows, and face the good and the challenging events together. My heart is overflowing with love and gratitude.

I have prayed for you every day of my time among you. I will continue to pray for you. It is time to entrust you to a new shepherd. I will leave your presence, but you will forever remain in my heart, and I will continue to pray for you. Please pray for me as well.

I remain, your brother in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Mark Currie', is written over a horizontal line.

**Archbishop Emeritus of St. John's
Apostolic Administrator**

Archdiocese of St. John's

24/12/18