



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

12 December 2017

The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

I'll be home for Christmas! In 1943, Bing Crosby recorded this Christmas hit and since then it has gone on to become a Christmas standard throughout the United States. Originally written from the perspective of a soldier away from his or her family for Christmas during World War II, the song also captures the sentiment of any loved one away from his or her family at Christmas time.

In that same spirit, as the new Bishop of Allentown, I welcome you and your entire family *home for Christmas*. For centuries, the Church has been a welcoming home to many: to families, to the aged, to the youth and young adults, to the infirmed, to those in crisis, to the poor, to the marginalized, and to so many more. Perhaps for some of your members of your family, it has been a while since they have been home in the Church. Please know that they are genuinely missed, and I welcome them *home for Christmas!*

It is my prayer that you and your family will be home with the Church at Christmas and every Sunday of the year. It is my hope that you will encounter in your local Parish, a Roman Catholic family of faith, centered in the Holy Eucharist, faithful to the Church's teachings, bringing the light of Christ to each other and to our community.

Please be assured of my prayers and best wishes for a Blessed Advent and joyful Christmas, as I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Alfred A. Schlert
Bishop of Allentown