



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO

# NEWS

Vicki Cessna, Executive Director  
Office of Communications&Public Affairs  
269-903-0163 (work); 269-929-8298 (mobile)  
vcessna@diokzoo.org  
[www.diokzoo.org](http://www.diokzoo.org)

## Bishop Bradley releases New Year's letter to the faithful

January 3, 2017 (KALAMAZOO, MICH.) Bishop Paul J. Bradley has released a [New Year's Letter to the Faithful for 2017](#) detailing hope for a more peace-filled year as Southwest Michigan experienced record-setting violence. He draws upon the inspirational World Day of Peace message from Pope Francis and encourages all people to model love and forgiveness within the family. In addition he reaffirms the Church's commitment to support and protect immigrants and refugees.

"If we truly want to be faithful followers and joyful witnesses to Jesus, the Prince of Peace," writes Bishop Bradley, "that means that we should make every effort to remove violence from our homes. Let us commit ourselves in this way to being true followers of Jesus, which means refusing to entertain or engage in violent acts of any sort within our family relationships, as well as those other relationships in our lives. It also means that we embrace Jesus' positive, encouraging, and life-giving acts of loving God with our whole heart, soul, mind and strength, and loving our neighbor as we love ourselves. Let us embrace and live the Beatitudes, which Pope Francis calls "a manual for peacemaking." Let us practice the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy every day. Let us be mindful of those in our circle of friends and family who may feel alienated, unwelcome, or frightened, especially our immigrant sisters and brothers."

Pope Francis' World Day of Peace message for 2017 can be found [here](#).

###

**The Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo** is the territory of Catholic churches and community led by Bishop Paul J. Bradley. The diocese was founded in 1971 when the Second Vatican Council

called for the creation of smaller dioceses so that bishops could be more available to the people they serve. Today the diocese encompasses 5,337 square miles of nine counties in southwest Michigan: Allegan, Barry, Van Buren, Kalamazoo, Calhoun, Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph and Branch and has grown to include 59 parishes as well as 23 Catholic schools.