



## Roman Catholic Diocese of Portland

510 Ocean Avenue  
Portland, ME 04103-4936

Telephone: (207) 321-7810  
Facsimile: (207) 773-0182

*Dave Guthro, Communications Director*

---

### A Message for the New Year from Bishop Robert P. Deeley

As we begin a new year, may we find new ways to bring the love of God we know in Jesus into our world. This year we treasure, in particular, two of God's most precious gifts of love: family and peace.

Throughout the diocese, we continue to celebrate the "Joy of the Family." The family is the domestic Church. Challenge yourself to strengthen family life as the place where faith is learned and practiced. Families, living in love in the light of the Gospel, show us that relationship and care for one another is the way to live a full life.

We should also be mindful of our responsibility to serve as caretakers of the various communities in which we participate. God created us to exist in relationship and harmony: "He came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near, for through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father" (Eph. 2:14).

Peace is a gift, living it is our call.

Throughout this new year of grace, may you and your family know the blessing of the peace and love that God gives us in Jesus.