

Christmas is the time of year when gift" takes on special meaning. There is untold excitement associated with our choosing just the right gift to show another our love and appreciation. Christmas is also a special time to remember and be grateful for the gifts which have been so freely given to us in the form of blessings.

Christmas is above all the time to celebrate the greatest of all gifts, the Word Made Flesh. Out of great love for us, God ordained that humankind no longer walk in darkness and thus, we were given -as Gift-the Light, God's Word embodied in Jesus Christ.

Within this gift of Christ we come to understand what it means for persons to be made in God's image and likeness. We come to understand also our responsibility to hold as precious the giftedness of one another. Basic to EMHS philosophy and mission is this concept, this understanding of the meaning of human personhood and the respect for human dignity.

In our ministry of health care we have the wonderful opportunity to heal as Christ healed, to incarnate God to the people we serve, to bring God into the lives of the most vulnerable among us. We can heal because Christ taught us to heal. We can be compassionate because Christ showed us how to be compassionate.

EMHS was formed out of the vision of collaboration. Not collabortation for its own sake but for the sake of bringing together individuals with like purpose in order to maintain and enhance the Catholic/Mercy health care ministry. We have the awesome responsibility of proclaiming God to the people. We have also the most perfect of models, Christ Jesus--given to us as GIFT.

May the Christ, given to us as gift that first Christmas, be renewed within each of us and may the peace and joy of this Christmas Season be with you and with those with whom and for whom you minister.