



*"He comes in splendor, the King who is our peace;
the whole world longs to see Him."
(Christmas, Evening Prayer I, Antiphon I)*



Friends and dedicated volunteers of the Rural Parish Clinic,

I wish you great joy in this Advent season as we prepare our hearts and homes to receive once again the newborn Prince of Peace at Christmas!

We are very grateful for your tremendous support for the works of the Rural Parish Clinic, both the mobile medical clinic, opened just over 2 and 1/2 years ago in April 2019, and the mobile dental clinic, which opened in January 2021. We have completed over 1000 patient visits in the rural areas and accumulated over 5500 volunteer hours between the two clinics since opening. This was all made possible through your generous financial contributions, your prayers, and your many hours of volunteering! These clinics exist only because of the donors and volunteers who make the services possible to bring the healing presence of Christ to the rural uninsured people living within the Archdiocese of St. Louis.



As the new medical director and president of the Rural Parish Clinic, I have big shoes to fill, following Sister Marie Paul Lockerd, who helped Archbishop Carlson transform the vision of this great clinic into a reality! We have encountered much need in the rural communities and continue striving to meet the Lord Jesus in those we serve. I am grateful for your warm welcome to lead this great mission and your continued support in reaching the needy with our medical and dental services. Thank you for your immense generosity and kindness! We rejoice in you! May you know His presence with you always and His peace.

In Christ Jesus,
Sister Mary Rachel Nerbun, RSM, MD, MA
Medical Director of the Rural Parish Clinic of the Archdiocese of St. Louis

Advent Reflection

Saint Paul wrote his Letter to the Philippians (4:4-7) from a dark prison cell at Rome, but he surprises us with his joy in the Lord!

Brothers and sisters: Rejoice in the Lord always. I say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

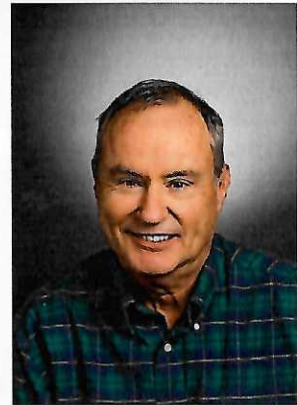
(Second reading at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on the Third Sunday of Advent)

May you experience that peace of God this Christmas, for *the Lord is near* always. He works within us, walks with us, and remains our way, our truth, and our life. Let Him reign as King and Center of your hearts!

A note from Dr. Landgraf:

As this year of great grace draws to a close and we celebrate the coming of our Savior, it is good to count the many blessings we have received this year. And so as I reflect upon you, the good people who have helped support and provide the dental care of the Rural Parish Clinic to those in greatest need. I wish to express my sincere appreciation for every job done and every contribution given that made this possible. You are all a great blessing to me personally and to those we serve. I speak for every patient that we have helped when I say **thank you so much for valuing our mission of service and stepping up to give people a better smile and future.**

Sincerely Yours in Christ,
John R. Landgraf, DMD
Dental Co-Director of the Rural Parish Clinic of the Archdiocese of St. Louis



A special greeting and an invitation:

"I proclaim to you good news of great joy; today a Savior is born for us, Christ the Lord." (Gospel verse of Christmas Night) As we rejoice in the birth of our Savior and look toward His coming again in glory, we rejoice also in your gifts to Him in the people we serve. May you be richly rewarded in this life and the next for your generosity. Please continue your prayers for the patients and volunteers and donors of the Rural Parish Clinic.

We are in need of additional volunteers to further the work of both clinics, clinical and non-clinical volunteers. Sign up [HERE](#).

We need your continued financial support to provide medical and dental care free of charge to the uninsured, income-qualifying rural community. Please prayerfully consider us in your year-end giving. Give online [HERE](#) or through the mail: Rural Parish Clinic, 20 Archbishop May Dr., St. Louis, MO 63119.

To become a volunteer as part of our Spiritual Apostolate, please send an email to jeanmariedecoster@archstl.org to request more information. Thank you!