



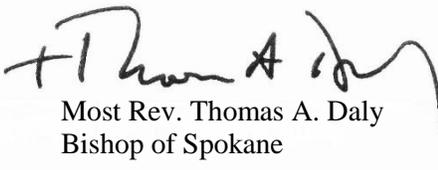
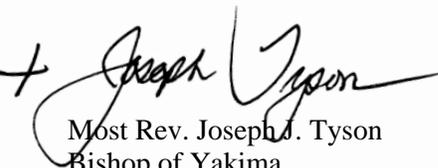
Thanksgiving Greeting from the Catholic Bishops of Washington State

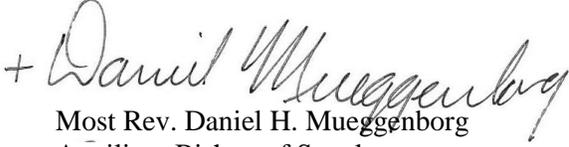
As the people of the state of Washington prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving, we have many reasons to be thankful. We live in one of the most beautiful regions in the most prosperous nation in the world, and it is fitting that we give thanks for our abundant blessings.

As Christians and people of good will gather with family and friends during this national holiday, it is also an appropriate occasion to turn our gaze toward those who are experiencing poverty, hunger and homelessness. As Catholic Bishops serving every community in our state, we are especially grateful to Pope Francis for establishing the first World Day of the Poor this Sunday, November 19. His [statement](#), and his Share the Journey initiative launched this past September, help us to widen the lens of our hearts in this season of thanksgiving, and to focus our attention on those among us – our brothers and sisters – who do not fully share in our state’s many blessings.

With our national holiday of Thanksgiving and the first-ever World Day of the Poor approaching, we Catholic Bishops of Washington State want to amplify the call for prayer and action we made in our letter on poverty ([Who Is My Neighbor?](#)) one year ago. In communion with our Holy Father, we urge everyone in our great state to mark this Thanksgiving holiday with “moments of encounter and friendship, solidarity and concrete assistance” with people living in poverty. Through God’s grace, these encounters will transform not only the lives of those we meet, but our lives as well, for we who enjoy many material blessings are called to share them in solidarity with our sisters and brothers.

A blessed Thanksgiving to you and your loved ones!

+  +  + 
Most Rev. J. Peter Sartain Most Rev. Thomas A. Daly Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson
Archbishop of Seattle Bishop of Spokane Bishop of Yakima

+  + 
Most Rev. Eusebio Elizondo, M.Sp.S. Most Rev. Daniel H. Mueggenborg
Auxiliary Bishop of Seattle Auxiliary Bishop of Seattle