



## Msgr. Mike's Blog: What Color Is Your Coffee Cup?

It has been a month now since criticism first erupted over the red coffee cup that Starbucks introduced for this year's holiday season. Some Christians were outraged that Starbucks had taken one more step in secularizing the Christmas season. In their minds it was nothing less than an atrocity, and a boycott of Starbucks was the only logical response. I was puzzled when I compared this year's holiday cup to the one used last year. Last year's cups

were also red but at least they had a star or a reindeer sketched on them. I wasn't quite sure how those cups were any more Christian than this year's version. I couldn't help but think that the criticism of our secular culture's removal of the religious meaning of the season was also pulling us Christians further and further away from what the Gospel calls us to do at this time of the year. Rather than focusing criticism on what the commercial world is not doing this Christmas season, perhaps we should give more attention to what we Christians should be doing at this time of the year.

A Starbucks cup that says Merry Christmas does not bring Christ to the world, but our acts of love and mercy do.

Rather than waiting for a greeting of Merry Christmas from a store cashier, go and visit a lonely person and bring them the greetings of the season.

Rather than looking for a plastic baby Jesus and a manger on the town common, make a donation to Visitation House for the child who was just born and might very well have been aborted had this home for expectant mothers not existed.

Rather than being satisfied drinking coffee from a cup that says Merry Christmas on it, send a card that says Merry Christmas to someone from whom you have grown distant or to someone in a relationship that has been strained.

In the end it doesn't matter what is printed on a Starbucks coffee cup. What matters most are the actions that flow from our hearts.

In this Jubilee Year of Mercy let our acts of mercy announce to all the world that Christmas is here and Jesus is in our midst.