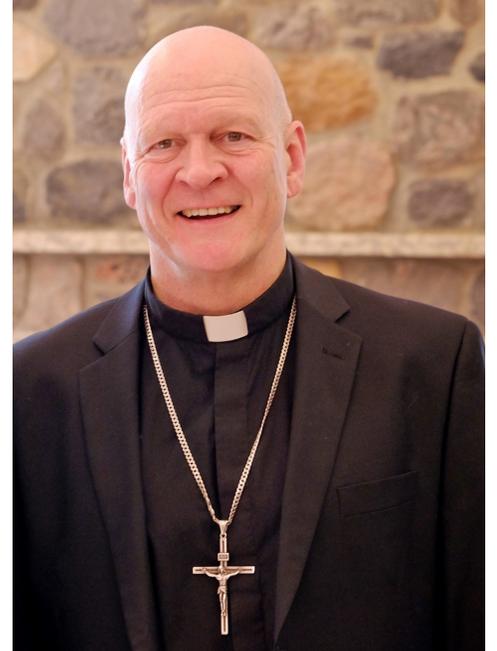


October 17, 2021

Dear people of God,

God is Doing New Things

*I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert. Isaiah 43:19 (NSRV)*



Greetings to you as we conclude the harvest season and continue our ongoing efforts to celebrate and live our faith through our church communities. We also continue to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic – making new and creative efforts to evangelize and reach out while keeping people safe and healthy. I am now completing my fourth year as the bishop of this great diocese, a place of amazing grace and blessing!

I also acknowledge that we have experienced many challenges – the pandemic is on all our minds, as are the recent reports of large numbers of unmarked graves at former residential schools in our province and country – and the reaction to such news. As Catholics – sharing with our other faith communities and wider civic community – we also want to see continued progress with building relationships: between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples; among various races and creeds that increasingly make up our Saskatchewan communities; and across all generations, young and old.

The pandemic has affected how the Church herself is seen, and how the Church will carry out pastoral action and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Issues that at one time might seem to be more peripheral and not a part of our everyday concern are now thrust into our vision. And long after the pandemic is over, we will be facing issues in the Church and in the world that have never been so prominent and on our consciousness.

Last year I reflected on how the concerns of the Old Testament prophets clearly have returned with new urgency and vigour. The status and treatment of the orphan, the stranger, the poor and the marginalized are now manifest in new ways as our diocese, country, and the world confront new awareness of the history of how we treat brothers and sisters. And *we too* need to deal with our own poverty! The Christian message has always been that we are united with Jesus Christ – reaching out from our own poverty – we are served, blessed and enriched. We need to receive His love and express such generosity and blessing with others.

This year’s **Bishop’s Annual Appeal** highlights the Church’s need to reset and renew– to hear the Holy Spirit’s call and guidance to all of us to prioritize the Gospel message of Jesus Christ, and especially the focus on our Christ-like service to persons – among us and beyond – who are in most need of loving and respectful care, mercy and reverence. Your gifts to the Bishop’s Annual Appeal are a way to participate in this call and support a number of crucial ministries in our diocese and beyond.

Adult Faith formation is a key priority in our diocese. People look for regular and accessible programs and support to assist their faith formation and deepen their understanding of key areas of theology, spirituality, and Catholic moral and social teaching. Adult Faith formation is breaking new ground this year as we seek to make it more accessible to greater numbers of Catholics seeking to deepen their faith and grow closer to Jesus Christ. God is indeed doing new things in the lives of many people!

In support of our youth and young adults – the diocese has recently launched “**Project Timothy**” – a **Youth Ministry** project that aims to build faith and form missionary disciples. This effort not only involves teaching and nurturing faith but also equipping disciples and calling forth vocations. In today’s fast-paced, technology-focused, secular culture, the challenges of sharing the Gospel and inspiring followers of Jesus Christ are greater than ever. God is persistently calling young men and women today. As a Church and a diocese, we must continue to help our youth and young adults hear and respond to God’s call.



Launch of Project Timothy—September 2021

I am very pleased that we have launched the “**Sts. Benedict and Scholastica Formation Program**.” This **Vocations** initiative involves a special partnership by our diocese with St. Thomas More College and the Verbum Dei religious community. It provides young men and women the academic, human and spiritual formation required for those seriously tracking towards priesthood, religious life, or professional ministry in the Church. This program is part of our diocese’s efforts to call and nurture women and men to serve as leaders in the Church and the world.

Support for people on the margins, including the stranger and those in prison, must always be the work of our church. We are strongly urged to follow Christ’s example *in all ways* – to bring faith, hope, and love to bear on the most uncommon or desperate of situations beyond our regular experience.



Launch of Sts. Benedict and Scholastica Formation Program—September 2021

Your gifts to our Annual Appeal ensure that spiritual care and comfort are provided to the sick and suffering through **Hospital Chaplaincy** and those in prison through the work of **Restorative Ministry**. Our **Justice and Peace Office** continues to work for the protection of the life and God-given dignity of persons and to work toward reconciliation, healing, and true growth in our communities.

We look forward to making further progress in our diocese on our commitment to the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. In this spirit, the Bishops of Saskatchewan recently announced efforts to promote a Catholic TRC Healing fund to support the healing and care of persons affected by the damaging legacy of residential schools in our province.

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As a diocese, we also continue with the “**Indigenous Pastoral & Lay Leader Ministry Education Program**” launched last fall – a joint project by our diocese, Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools, and St. Thomas More College. Supported by your gifts to the Bishop’s Annual Appeal, we continue to work with **Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish** and the **Diocesan Council for Truth and Reconciliation** to address many other areas of progress in achieving reconciliation, deepening relationships and work with our Indigenous brothers and sisters.

Perhaps more than ever, the Church is called to be a prophetic witness in its efforts to welcome refugees and those displaced from their homes and peoples. This witness also extends to efforts to advocate for migrant workers and the many vulnerable women and youth from other countries exploited through human trafficking in Canada and beyond. Our diocesan **Office of Migration** continues to work with parishes and other groups to enable refugee sponsorships and welcome newcomers to a new life of safety.

The **Bishop’s Annual Appeal** is how our diocese and the local church responds to the many needs we see around us and provides service and outreach throughout our diocese. These supports are more necessary than ever as we deal with the challenges of our present times. The size of your gift is secondary to the goal that all people of our diocese participate in sharing and working together in the mission of Proclaiming Christ, in service to others, sharing from the heart.



Memorial Wake—Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish and St. Mary’s Parish, June 2021

Thank you very much for your continued generosity and for all the ways that you continue to share in how God is making all things new – especially when we need His grace and vision the most!



Sincerely in our One God,

Bishop Mark A. Hagemoen
Diocese of Saskatoon

Name: «Addressee»			
Address: «Address»		Email: «Email»	
City/Town: «City/Town»		Province: «SK»	PC: «Postal Code»
Landline: «Landline»		Cell: «Cell / Mobile»	
Parish: «Parish»		Diocesan Member ID: «Diocesan Member ID»	

My 2021 BAA RECURRING gift is _____.	Total Gift	Over 10 months	Over 12 months
<input type="checkbox"/> The same at «Recurring Gift Amount» per month.	\$1,000.00	\$100.00	\$83.33
<input type="checkbox"/> «Ask 1 - 6%» per month.	\$750.00	\$75.00	\$62.50
<input type="checkbox"/> «Ask 2 - 12%» per month.	\$500.00	\$50.00	\$41.67
<input type="checkbox"/> «Ask 3 - 19%» per months.	\$250.00	\$25.00	\$20.83
<input type="checkbox"/> \$_____ per month.	\$200.00	\$20.00	\$16.67
	\$150.00	\$15.00	\$12.50
	\$100.00	\$10.00	\$8.33

I/we would like to make this year’s BAA gift a **MONTHLY RECURRING GIFT** that will automatically renew each year. I/we know that this monthly recurring gift can be changed or stopped at any time by contacting the Diocese of Saskatoon Catholic Foundation.

PLEASE DIRECT MY GIFT TO THE FOLLOWING MINISTRY(S) OR PROGRAM(S):

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greatest Need | <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Faith Formation | <input type="checkbox"/> Communication |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deaf Ministry | <input type="checkbox"/> Education of Priests & Future Priests | <input type="checkbox"/> Evangelization and Catechesis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospital Chaplaincy | <input type="checkbox"/> Education of International Clergy | <input type="checkbox"/> Education of Laity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Liturgy Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish | <input type="checkbox"/> Justice and Peace |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Office of Migration (Refugee) | <input type="checkbox"/> Restorative (Prison) Ministry | <input type="checkbox"/> Safeguarding Action Plan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reverence for Life Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Marriage and Family Life | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous Pastoral Ministry Education Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Diocesan Council for Truth & Reconciliation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth and Young Adult (Project Timothy) | <input type="checkbox"/> Support for Archdiocese of Keewatin-Le Pas | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Church Restoration Fund & New Church Sites | <input type="checkbox"/> Ecumenical and Inter-Faith Ministry | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vocations Support—includes Sts. Benedict and Scholastica Formation Program | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friendship Inn | <input type="checkbox"/> Prairie Centre for Ecumenism | |

CHEQUES: Please make cheques payable to “BAA” with your parish name in the memo line.

PRE-AUTHORIZED DEBIT: I/we authorize the Diocese of Saskatoon Catholic Foundation to deduct \$_____ from my bank account on the 1st day of each month.

(Please attach a void cheque or enter the account information below.)

Transit/Branch #: _____ Institution # _____ Account # _____

CREDIT CARD: Please make your gift using your credit card online at <https://dscf.ca/baa/>
Making your gift online is more secure than mailing your credit card information.
You can scan the above **QR code** with your mobile phone.

Signature:

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