



ARCHEVÊCHÉ
ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE
ARCHIDIOCÈSE DE SAINT-BONIFACE ARCHDIOCESE

BUREAU DE L'ARCHEVÊQUE
OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

Dear friends, brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ,

When we go on a journey we always need something to show us the way, a map, a compass, a GPS. It's the same for us, the people of God on our pilgrim way.

Now of course it is always Jesus Christ who is the Way, the Truth and the Life for his disciples. But at each moment of its journey through the ages, He calls the Church as his Body to a particular attention to the sign of the times and to a particular response.

For the last four years as a diocesan Church, the Body of Christ here in Saint Boniface, we have been discerning the challenges before us.

In a world often indifferent to God and all things religious, where do we meet Christ? How do we enter into a relationship with him as Saviour and Lord, as a loving friend? How do we pass on this faith to the young and continue growing in it as adults? How do we share it with those who do not know Christ? How do we create communities shaped by His call to love with him and like him, communities marked by welcome, by mutual support and respect, by compassion and mercy, communities moved to turn to the poor and suffering near and far, moved to work for justice, for peace, everywhere? How do we grow in prayer both as individuals and as an assembly gathered together in prayer that is real, life-giving, filled with peace, hope and joy as we encounter the Lord in His Word and in the Sacraments?

Engaging discussion and consultation at the parish, regional and diocesan level, we have set out our mission, our values and our guiding principles. However, as essential as these statements are they only provide the general direction. A map must be detailed enough; a GPS must be precise enough to actually get us to our destination. And so, it is with our diocesan pastoral plan that we have developed for the next five years.

The plan sets out the priorities we believe each parish should strive for, primarily both fostering ongoing faith formation and spiritual growth to all ages and for this, supporting the participation of all, especially through the training and support of the laity in all types of ministry. A parish alive in these areas will then be a parish that can truly be missionary, finding ways to invite all to the Gospel.

This booklet sets out in detail our goals in each of the pastoral services offered by the diocese for the sake of the vitality and strength of your parishes, as you strive to live out the common mission given us by Christ.

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I invite you to read this booklet in detail. See how you can be involved at your parish level. Keep this booklet handy to help your parish seek and develop its own particular journey. Take it out once in a while to see how we are doing, how we are progressing in our common journey as a diocese. Finally, and most importantly, let it be a reminder to pray for one another, for all our efforts and for the advancement of the Kingdom of God amongst us, here and now as we continue on the road to God.

† Albert LeGatt
Archbishop of Saint Boniface