



March 24, 2017

*A Message from Most Reverend Albert LeGatt  
Archbishop of Saint Boniface*

**«Ad Limina Apostolorum» Visit, Rome  
March 27 to April 2, 2017**

Dear Friends,

The bond linking together the Pope and all the Bishops worldwide is most precious. This bond is lived within the context of the apostolic succession that they share in common. This bond of faith and charity allows them to serve the universality of the Church, its unity in the mission received from Jesus Christ himself.

Periodically, that bond will be expressed in a very practical way, i.e., when the Bishops visit the Holy Father and the various Congregations and Pontifical Councils at the Vatican. That particular Visit is called “*ad limina apostolorum*” (visit to the Apostles) and it normally takes place every five years. As far as we, the Bishops of Canada, are concerned, our last visit already dates back eleven years ago, which was in 2006, during the pontificate of Pope Benedict. The delay was due mostly to the health of Pope Benedict, to his resignation and to the subsequent election of Pope Francis, followed by the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

Now the moment has come for our next “*ad limina*” Visit. All the Bishops of Western and Northern Canada will gather in Rome for their visit from March 27th to April 2nd. The audience of the whole group of bishops with the Holy Father will take place on Monday March 27th. Then follows time visiting and sharing with Congregations and Pontifical Councils, discussing all aspects pertaining to the Church's life in each diocese. During this week, we will also celebrate within the four major Basilicas of Rome: Saint Peter, Saint John Lateran, Saint Mary Major and Saint Paul Outside the Walls. To view a copy of our week's detailed schedule, [click here](#).

Please do not forget to pray for the spiritual success of our visit.

In preparation for the visits to the Congregations and Councils of the Holy See, each Bishop must prepare a «quinquennial (five-year) report», describing the overall situation of his diocese. It is to be a statement reflecting the totality of diocesan life and initiatives since the last visit.

...2

The Holy See sends a questionnaire made up of 23 sections. The Bishops are asked to fully describe their diocese's present situation as well as the foreseeable future. This represents a huge amount of work prepared as a team by all those who have a role at the diocesan level.

Since that document presents an overall view of the situation of the diocese, as well as a more detailed view of each segment of the life of the Church in our Archdiocese, I have decided to prepare this report not only for the Holy Father and the Vatican administration, but as well for all the faithful of the Archdiocese. In order to allow all the faithful to refer to it, this document is now published on the Archdiocese's Website. To access the document, please click on the following link: <http://www.archsaintboniface.ca/main.php?p=726>.

I invite you to read this report not only to have a sense of the considerations I am sharing with the Holy Father, but also get to know more about our diocese, about the life of this particular Church called the Archdiocese of Saint Boniface.

This voluminous report of 112 pages is comprised of 23 sections, each section describing one dimension or another of the diocese and of its life. I invite you to read this report either fully or more selectively on the sections which are of a particular interest to you, by consulting the table of contents. May you all have an interesting and enriching read.

In closing, I ask you to pray for me and to pray especially for our beautiful diocese as I undertake this significant experience. I also ask you to pray for all the other Bishops from the Western and Northern regions of Canada as well as for each of their own dioceses.

In appreciation and thanksgiving to God for the witness of faith by all of you, I pray that God may bless each and every one of you.

Sincerely in Christ,



+Albert LeGatt  
Archbishop of Saint Boniface