



ST. ANTHONY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

5340 4 St. SW Calgary AB T2V 0Z5 403-252-1137 fax 403-255-7796

info@stanthonysyc.ca www.stanthonysyc.ca

Facebook: St. Anthony's Catholic Parish

32 Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 8, 2020



WILLIAM T. McGRATTAN
BISHOP OF CALGARY

November 3, 2020

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As the Bishop of Calgary, I want to provide you with an update on where we have been, where we are currently and where we hope to be in the coming years with God's providence and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Since early March, the Province of Alberta and our Diocese have been responding to the ongoing threat of COVID-19. We put in place liturgical guidelines to ensure the safety and health of parishioners as they returned to the public celebration of Mass in June with the restricted attendance of about 30% of the normal capacity due to the required physical distancing in our churches.

In April, we introduced fiscal guidelines to ensure the financial stability of parishes and the Diocese that are in place until the end of December 2020. This was done in anticipation of reduced parish revenues which overall since the pandemic have decreased by 20 to 40 percent.

The fiscal guidelines included the temporary lay-off of staff at the parish and the Diocese, a salary reduction for the clergy and further cost containment measures. Suffice to say that we pulled our belt in and we were able to reduce our spending.

We know that we are not alone in experiencing such a negative financial impact. All sectors of our society have been to some degree affected financially by the pandemic, including the Church. We recognize this financial pressure is a burden on families and individuals.

While the faithful continue to be as generous as is possible, a family's first financial priority is the care of the family. This is an important priority and one which I affirm for each of you. It will take some time before parish offerings return to their pre-pandemic levels.

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CALGARY
Catholic Pastoral Centre | 1201 17 Ave SW, Calgary, AB T2S 2T2
Phone: 403-238-5528 | Fax: 403-264-0272

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As we look forward to 2021 we must continue to live within our means by introducing further financial measures that will impact our diocesan and parish staff but will allow us to manage responsibly the day-to-day expenses in the parishes and the Diocese with reduced revenues.

Like many organizations, our largest operating cost is in the area of staff compensation and so we are faced with the need to address these costs. This means that the temporary lay-off of staff in parishes and at the Pastoral Centre will become permanent for some. These decisions will impact those employees who will not return to work, their families and all of our parishioners in one way or another.

These decisions which affect people's lives are not taken lightly. They are extremely difficult and if circumstances were different and the future financial position of the Diocese more predictable, they would not have to be made. I deeply regret that this step is being taken because the Diocese and our parishes have been blessed with such dedicated staff. We will continue to ensure that compassion, justice, respect and the necessary support will be given to our employees especially those most impacted.

These decisions, however, are necessary so that the mission of the Church will be sustained in this time of pandemic and to provide for a solid foundation for the future. While these are challenging times, I am hopeful that together we will emerge from this pandemic even stronger with the help of God.

I thank you for your continued support and I ask for your prayers especially for all those who are impacted by these decisions.

I extend to all parishioners, to you and your family, my prayers as we entrust the Diocese to our Lady and to St. Joseph.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



William T. McGrattan
Bishop of Calgary

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Weekend Schedule

Saturday	Confessions	4:00 pm
	English Mass	5:00 pm
Sunday	Confessions	6:45 am
	Latin Mass	7:15 am
	English Mass	9:00 am
	English Mass	10:30 am
	Confessions	Noon
	Latin Mass	12:30 pm

Weekday Schedule

Monday	Confessions	6:30 am
	Latin Mass	7:00 am
	Confessions	8:30 am
	English Mass	9:00 am
Tuesday	Confessions	6:30 am
	Latin Mass	7:00 am
	Confessions	8:30 am
	English Mass	9:00 am
Wednesday	Confession	11:30 am
	Latin Mass	Noon
	Confession	6:30 pm
	English Mass	7:00 pm
Thursday & Friday	Confession	8:30 am
	English Mass	9:00 am
	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	9:30 am
	Confessions	6:00 pm
	Benediction	6:00 pm
	Latin Mass	7:00 pm
Saturday	Confessions	8:00 am
	Latin Mass	9:00 am

Please read this letter from Bishop McGrattan to the Faithful on the financial status of the Diocese and the decisions that impact the parishes and the Catholic Pastoral Centre, appended to this bulletin.

COVID & THE Call to Faith Week 7

Value & dignity of human work



Panelists

Mr. Alan Schietzsch, Ms. Joan Hertz, Mr. Mark Anielski, Mr. Ricardo Morales, Dr. Eugenia Pagnotta-Kowalczyk

Covid & The Call to Faith

Watch Panel Discussion Video Week 7 at

<https://grandinmedia.ca/bishops-reflections-on-covid/>
Weekly Reflection (PDF) is appended to this bulletin

Pastor Fr. Edmund Vargas ext 224 or 587-349-9615
Associate Pastor Fr. John Shannon, FSSP ext 226 or 403-714-7361
In Residence Fr. John Petravicius, Fr. Anthony Pudota
Deacon Ron Nowell
Bookkeeper Magda Aguillon ext 223
Janitorial Service Polmax Ecology Cleaning Ltd.

On Temporary Leave:
 John Morgan Music Director
 Heather Schilling Parish Secretary
 Dorothy Loucks Sacramental Preparation
 Maria Teresa Valez Accountant
 Dianne McKay Office Assistant

Pastoral Notes

The Month of Remembrance

This month is the Month of Remembrance. We recall the memory of our loved ones who have gone before us in faith. We remember their death that separates the rest of us who are still in this pilgrimage on earth.

Death brings emptiness and even devastation in our life and relationships. Death, especially as a result of abuse and violence, becomes abominable not only for us and for our God, who is the lord of all life and death. But out of the devastation, emptiness and abomination, something positive emerges in us. We re-discover love, even in the midst of hatred and violence. We renew friendship and personal closeness that would not have been so intimate and loving. We also realize more forcefully and more powerfully that we are not supposed to be pitted against each other and that we are indeed partners in dealing with our own mortality and human weaknesses.

In this offering of the Holy Eucharist, which celebrates the violent and abominable crucifixion and death of the Lord Jesus Christ, we behold the power of redemption that comes about through his resurrection. In Jesus Christ, we find the meaning of our own suffering and pain. In him, we find the context and meaning of our death. Death becomes the defining moment of our entire life, ushering us to the life that lasts forever. Death is a masterpiece, as it were, that unites all together the pieces of memories and experiences of a lifetime.

Our greatest legacy and pledge we can make at this point of our lives is to resolve to live our respective lives in the most loving and caring way, in imitation of the Lord Jesus Christ whose life and ministry was marked with love, compassion, self-sacrifice and self-giving.

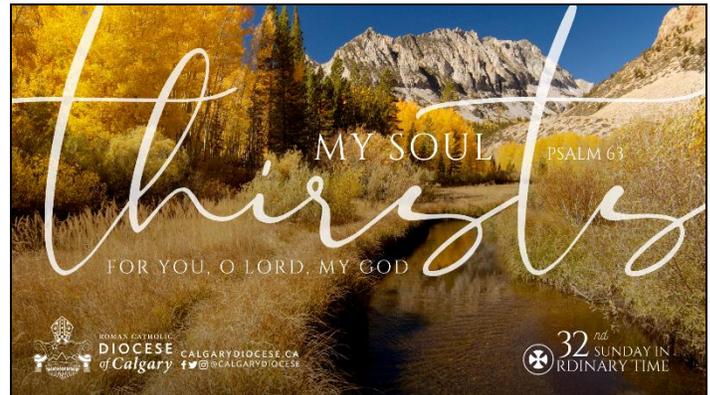
HEALING CORNER

"Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father." Also remember to always shine light on abuse around you. In order to be part of the solution we must highlight all forms of interpersonal violence and work to end its prevalence in our world.

Pope Francis' "Civil Union" Clarification

At the request of the Holy Father, the Secretariat of State has prepared the explanatory document (in Italian) in response to the release of the documentary entitled, Francesco.

The document, received from the Apostolic Nunciature, clarifies the context of certain statements made by His Holiness and contained in the said documentary. It has been unofficially translated in English and in French. The unofficial English translation explanatory document is appended to this bulletin.



CCCB Daily Readings

First Reading: Wisdom 6.12-16, Psalm 63
Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4.13-18
Gospel: Matthew 25.1-13

FR EDMUND'S UPDATE

Our **2021 envelopes are now ready for pick-up**. Observing required physical distancing, please proceed to the right front of the church, and go into the Office Meeting Room, pick up your 2021 box and exit through the Office doors. If you are a new user or you don't find your name in the alphabetically arranged boxes, please pick up a blank one and write your name and the box number on the sheet provided.

We are giving away, for a voluntary gift, the **2021 Breaking Bread hymn books** to help cover the cost of the already-delivered materials. They will be available in the hallway for pick up. Donations can be placed the Donation Box at the end of the counter. The **2021 St Joseph's Sunday missals** are arriving soon. We will make them available as soon as they arrive.

Families who are still interested with the **2020 First Reconciliation Preparation program** can contact Fr Edmund directly for details.

Our **Advent & Christmas preparations** are on the way. Gillian Briscoe and the Environment Committee have put up a plan to decorate our church, accordingly, starting as early as November 20. We plan to add two (2) additional Masses on Christmas Eve, that is, 3pm & 9pm, in addition to 5pm & 7pm. The Misang Pilipino at 5pm on Christmas Day introduced last year is also scheduled for this year. The 9-day Simbang Gabi Masses (December 15-23, 7pm) will go ahead with required compliance of AHS & diocesan guidelines. There will be a sign-up for the Simbang Gabi Masses.

Our **2020 Christmas Hampers** will be delivered to beneficiaries on **Saturday, December 19**, after the hampers are prepared and packed the day before. We need volunteers for the preparation on December 18 and delivery on December 19. Financial contributions are also required. A Giving Tree will be set up by November 29 for parishioners to contribute Christmas gifts that will accompany the hampers.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, Nov 8

7:15am Latin	SI	special intention
9am English	RIP	Mary Hess
	RIP	Souls of all the Faithful Legionaries
10:30am English	SI	Parishioners
12:30 pm Latin	SI	special intention

Monday, Nov 9

7am Latin	RIP	All Souls in Purgatory
9am English	SI	Ana D'Silva
	RIP	All Souls in Purgatory

Tuesday, Nov 10

7am Latin	SI	Special intention
9am English	RIP	Peter Brown
	RIP	Fr Pierre Tritz, SJ

Wednesday, Nov 11

Noon Latin	SI	special intention
7pm English	SI	Maja McAllister

Thursday, Nov 12

9am English	SI	Julius Onwughalu
	RIP	Souls in Purgatory
7pm Latin	SI	special intention

Friday, Nov 13

9am English	SI	De los Reyes Family
	RIP	Sonja Duke
7pm Latin	SI	special intention

Saturday, Nov 14

9am Latin	SI	special intention
5pm English	RIP	William & Barbara Saruga
	RIP	Liza S Pangan

LATIN MASS CALENDAR

Sunday Nov 8	2 nd CL	23 rd Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday Nov 15	2 nd CL	6 th Sunday after Epiphany
Sunday Nov 22	2 nd CL	Last Sunday after Pentecost

LET US PRAY FOR THE SICK

Rose Dourado, Ken Foran, Faye LaPaz,
Johnson Mont, Leanne Morgan,
Charlene Munn, and Corazon Reyes
**May the Lord grant them healing, comfort, and
peace.**

REST IN PEACE

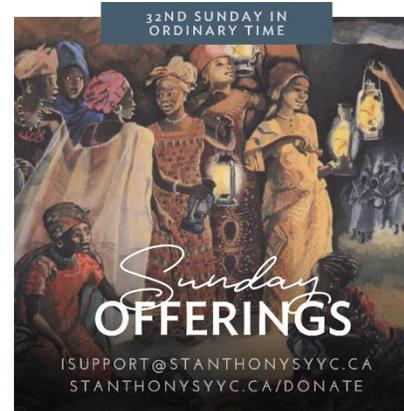
**Mary Hess, Mrs. Nancy Hriskevich,
Ruth Odinetz (mother of Ruth Hewitt)
Mary Olson and Laura Schielke**

Our heartfelt sympathies to their families.

**May their souls and the souls of all the faithful
departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.**

YOUR WEEKLY OFFERING

Our parish relies on our regular offertory giving for maintenance and growth. We offer many convenient ways for you to make your contributions including: sign in to your to own banking institution and e-transfer the amount to:



isupport@stanthonyssyc.ca; or to donate by credit card, or register for pre-authorized debit withdrawal visit stanthonyssyc.ca/donation; you may also mail your cheques to St. Anthony's Church 5340 4 St. SW Calgary, AB T2V 0Z5, or drop off your donation envelopes into our donation box in the church when you come to Mass. You are providing crucial support to care for your parish during this difficult time. Thank you for your generosity.

DONATIONS IN OCTOBER

	BUDGET	COLLECTION	DIFFERENCE
MTD	\$32,815	\$45,879.59	\$13,004.59
YTD	\$344,644	\$312,484.38	(\$32,159.62)

	GOAL	COLLECTION	DIFFERENCE
TIA 2020	\$41,030	\$18,095.45	(\$22,934.55)
Refuge Family	\$30,000	\$30,000.00	\$0.00

PANTRY TO ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY



We are now planning our transition from our Pantry to become a "conference" or branch or affiliate with

the wider society. All members of the current Pantry and others who are interested are invited to become part of the new setup by completing the [SSVP new member form](#) and emailing it to Fr. Edmund at efvargas@shaw.ca.

St. Anthony's 10:30 AM Sunday Livestream Mass



Watch livestream on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#)



WEEKLY ADORATION

If there is anything you need, pray for it. Philippians 4:6

[Red Altar Candle Offering](#)

Thursday and Friday 9:30 am – 6:00 pm.

[Register in advance](#) or sign in.

A minimum of 2 people per hour are required.



On November 8, 2020, we celebrate Catholic Education Sunday across the Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary. It is a day to recognize the gift of Catholic education that is ours to cherish and support so that it remains vital for today's students who will become tomorrow's community leaders. Our schools are an expression of our faith and a gift to future generations. Catholic education is the permeation of God in everything we do.

The Calgary Catholic Education Foundation is a charitable organization dedicated to enhancing the learning experience for the over 59,000 students in the 118 schools of the Calgary Catholic School District. A portion of the Catholic Education Sunday collection is committed to St Mary's University, St Joseph's Seminary at Newman Theological College as well as the Catholic schools of the Franco-Sud school board. This year more than ever, your donations are crucial to ensure our students are successful in their learning be it in school or online due to COVID19.

To donate online, please visit <https://theccef.ca/donors>.
Donations of \$20 or more receive a tax receipt. Thank you for believing in Catholic Education.

Memorial Liturgy

for those grieving a loss of a child through miscarriage & stillbirth
with The Most Rev. William T. McGrattan



FRIDAY, NOV. 20, 2020
Sacred Heart Church, Calgary
6:30 PM - Registration
7 PM - Liturgy

TO ATTEND, PLEASE REGISTER AT
miscarriageliturgy.ca
OR CALL 403-218-5521



8 Ways to honour the Holy Souls this November

For Catholics, November is the month of the Holy Souls in Purgatory. The Catechism teaches: "All who die in God's grace and friendship but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death, they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven." (CCC 1030). Here are some easy ways to remember the dead this year. [Read more](#)

*The people who walked
in darkness have seen
a great light...*

ISAIAH 9:2



I am blessed

BE THAT LIGHT FOR OTHERS
DURING THESE DIFFICULT TIMES

✦ Give

Donate to help others.

✦ Act

Do good deeds for others.

✦ Pray

Remember others in your prayers.



IAMBLESSED.CA

Faithfully

FAITH. LIVED. FULLY.

The November Edition is available to [read online](#)



ST. ANTHONY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

SACRAMENT MATTERS

FIRST RECONCILIATION

Registration: Ongoing, please contact Fr. Edmund

In-Person 30-minute Session with Fr Edmund in the church after the Sunday 10:30 Mass: October 25, November 8, November 22 & December 6.

Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation: **December 15, 7pm** or by appointment.

FIRST EUCHARIST/COMMUNION

Registration Deadline: January 24

In-Person 30-minute Session with Fr Edmund in the church after the Sunday, 10:30am Mass: January 24, February 7, February 21 & March 7.

First Communion Mass: **March 14, 10:30am Mass** or by appointment.

CONFIRMATION

Registration Deadline: April 11

In-person 30-minute Session with Fr Edmund in the church after the Sunday 10:30am Mass: April 11, April 25, May 9 & May 23.

Confirmation Mass is on **Saturday, May 29, 5pm**.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS

Please arrange an interview with Fr Edmund at any time with your Registration Form. The home study program will be explained accordingly. The program culminates with the celebration at the Easter Vigil (April 3)

BAPTISM

Please submit a Registration for Baptism Form, together with a copy of the child's birth certificate. Upon receipt, Fr Edmund will contact you for an interview and scheduling of the celebration.

An online Baptism Class is scheduled every 4th Saturday of the month, 10am to 12noon, facilitated by Ferdie & Malou Gayos of the Missionary Families for Christ (MFC).

WEDDINGS, FUNERALS & ANNOINTING OF THE SICK SPIRITUAL DIRECTION or PASTORAL CONSULTATION

Contact Fr. Edmund to arrange.

St. Anthony's Church
5340 4th St. SW, Calgary, AB T2V 0Z5



403 -252-1137
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www.stanthonysyc.ca
St. Anthony's Catholic Parish

Pastor: Fr. Edmund Vargas



587-349-9615



403-874-2015
efvargas@shaw.ca



WILLIAM T. MCGRATTAN

BISHOP *of* CALGARY

November 3, 2020

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As the Bishop of Calgary, I want to provide you with an update on where we have been, where we are currently and where we hope to be in the coming years with God's providence and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Since early March, the Province of Alberta and our Diocese have been responding to the ongoing threat of COVID-19. We put in place liturgical guidelines to ensure the safety and health of parishioners as they returned to the public celebration of Mass in June with the restricted attendance of about 30% of the normal capacity due to the required physical distancing in our churches.

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Catholic Pastoral Centre | 120 17 Ave SW, Calgary, AB T2S 2T2

Phone: 403-218-5526 | Fax : 403-264-0272

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I thank you for your continued support and I ask for your prayers especially for all those who are impacted by these decisions.

I extend to all parishioners, to you and your family, my prayers as we entrust the Diocese to our Lady and to St. Joseph.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



+William T. McGrattan
Bishop of Calgary

Some statements, contained in the documentary "Francesco" by director Evgeny Afineevsky, have given rise to different reactions and interpretations in recent days. Therefore, here are some useful points in order to bring about, at his request, a correct understanding of the words of the Holy Father.

Over a year ago, in an interview, Pope Francis answered two distinct questions at two different times which, in the aforementioned documentary, were drafted and published as a single answer without due contextualization, which led to confusion. The Holy Father had firstly made a *pastoral reference* on the need that, within the family, the son or daughter with a homosexual orientation should never be discriminated against. These are the words in reference to it: «Las personas homosexuales tienen derecho a estar en familia; son hijos de Dios, tienen derecho a una familia. No se puede echar de la familia a nadie ni hacerle la vida imposible por eso ».

The following paragraph of the Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation on Love in the Family *Amoris Laetitia* (2016) can illuminate these expressions: " During the Synod, we discussed the situation of families whose members include persons who experience same-sex attraction, a situation not easy either for parents or for children. We would like before all else to reaffirm that every person, regardless of sexual orientation, ought to be respected in his or her dignity and treated with consideration, while 'every sign of unjust discrimination' is to be carefully avoided,²⁷⁶ particularly any form of aggression and violence. Such families should be given respectful pastoral guidance, so that those who manifest a homosexual orientation can receive the assistance they need to understand and fully carry out God's will in their lives. "(n. 250).

A subsequent question in the interview was instead inherent to a *local law* of ten years ago in Argentina on "matrimonios igualitarios de parejas del mismo sexo" and to the opposition to it by the then Archbishop of Buenos Aires. In this regard, Pope Francis affirmed that "es una incongruencia hablar de matrimonio homosexual", adding that, in this precise context, he had spoken of the right of these persons to have legal protection: "lo que tenemos que hacer es una ley de convivencia civil; tienen derecho a estar cubiertos legalmente. Yo defendí eso ».

The Holy Father expressed himself in the following way during an interview in 2014: «Marriage is between a man and a woman. Secular States want to justify civil unions to regulate different situations of living together, driven by the need for regulate economic aspects between persons, such as ensuring health care. These are living together agreements of various kinds, of which I cannot list the different forms. It is necessary to see the different cases and evaluate them case by case ».

It is therefore evident that Pope Francis was referring to particular State measures, certainly not to the doctrine of the Church, which has been reiterated numerous times over the years.



Reflection

Week 7

Value & dignity of human work

The global pandemic had (and continues to have) a devastating effect upon our economy, affecting employers and employees alike in virtually every sector of society.





RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

- Pope Francis, Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (2013): [The Joy of the Gospel](#).
- Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church (2006): [Ch. 6. Human Work](#)
- Saint Pope John Paul II, Encyclical Letter *Laborem Exercens* (1981): [On Human Work](#)

It may be many years before the total impact of the pandemic is truly known in our province or territory, our country or the wider world. What is certain, however, is that COVID-19 continues to influence economic conditions around the globe, and to create a number of unprecedented situations bearing upon human labour, such as: large-scale and forced periods of unemployment; new work environments requiring rapid adaptation, and extraordinarily heavy demands placed upon essential sectors of human service. Some areas of the economy have been particularly hard hit by the crisis, and may never recover, leaving many people deeply worried about their future livelihood. The Church herself has not been exempt from facing many of these same challenges.

In many instances, we have witnessed great efforts made to preserve and uphold the essential value of employment and the dignity of workers. In other situations, employment conditions during the pandemic have brought to our awareness the basic moral tenets of just employee-employer relations. Our Christian response has been (and must always be) to promote the value and dignity of human work for individuals, their families and the local communities where they live and serve.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- 1 How has COVID-19 affected the conditions of your work life and family? What has this experience taught you about the nature, value and dignity of your work?
- 2 What questions or lessons has the pandemic surfaced for you about the way(s) in which we relate to economic structures in our Church? in society?
- 3 In moving forward, what activities should our Church undertake to promote just economic recovery and a renewal of dignity and respect in the workplace?

Inspired by the model of St. Joseph the Worker and with a shared concern for the welfare of all, we desire a society that affirms the importance, value and dignity of human work, especially in the service of a better, more just and harmonious world.



PANEL DISCUSSION

Week 7

Value & dignity of human work



Moderator



Mr. Alan Schietzsch
Grandin Media,
Archdiocese of Edmonton

Panelists



Ms. Joan Hertz

Lawyer/Consultant; Chair,
ATB Financial Board of
Directors



Mr. Mark Anielski

President and Chief Well-
being Officer of Anielski
Management Inc.



Mr. Ricardo Morales

Manager of Community
Development and Integration
Services, Calgary Catholic
Immigration Society



**Dr. Eugenia Pagnotta-
Kowalczyk**

Executive Director, Alberta
Catholic School Trustees
Association



The **Catholic Bishops**
of **Alberta** and the
Northwest Territories

Les **évêques catholiques**
de l'**Alberta** et des
Territoires du Nord-Ouest



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Territoires du Nord-Ouest

8421 - 101 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, T6A 0L1 | T 780.469.1010 F 780.465.3003

A Pastoral Statement on the Impact of COVID-19 and the Call to Christian Renewal

“Save your people, O Lord, and bless your inheritance”

Dear faithful in Christ,

For the past several months, our Catholic community, together with all Canadians and indeed the whole world, has been seriously impacted by the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19). All of us – whether individuals, families, parishes, institutions or dioceses – have been required to make sacrifices, including many difficult but necessary decisions about matters at the very heart of our Catholic faith and way of life. As bishops, we acknowledge and are grateful for the way in which our Catholic faithful – clergy and laity alike – have lived the unprecedented circumstances of these months. We know, too, that the Lord allows all occasions – positive and negative – to teach and re-teach us lessons for right living in light of the Gospel. It is in this spirit that we address this letter to you as an invitation to consider along with us what the Lord may be saying to his people and his Church through this time of trial.

While the situation of COVID-19 continues to develop in our lives and communities, it is increasingly evident that the pandemic has had, and will continue to have for some time to come, a far reaching impact on all people throughout the world. In Canada, including here in Alberta and the Northwest Territories, many human and social values have surfaced that, as Catholics among others, we will need to reflect upon as we consider the future of our life together in society, especially in the light of Christian revelation and our faith in Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.

In particular, the pandemic has alerted us to a number of important social issues that touch us all including:

- the care of vulnerable persons in our society and supports offered to medical personnel in hospitals, nursing homes and other care facilities;
- the education of our young people and supports offered to families and to educators;
- isolation and depression in our homes and communities, and the prevalence and stigma of mental illness, substance abuse, suicide and other social ills;
- increased rates of domestic violence, elder abuse and other forms of interpersonal violence;
- societal discord over different responses to COVID-19 that have fractured human relationships and challenged our call to love one another;
- incidents of racism, bigotry and religious intolerance, including in our towns and cities;
- anxieties caused by massive losses of employment and the general situation of economic instability;
- the fragility of our human condition and the basic needs we all have for safety, solidarity, and love within authentic human community.

At the same time, we have witnessed on a daily basis many heroic and selfless examples of individuals who exemplify true human goodness and charity. These are the so-called “saints who live next door” identified by Pope Francis as medical professionals, educators, parents and grandparents, shop workers, cleaners, communications and information technology specialists, law and order personnel, delivery drivers and so many volunteers in all sectors of our society. Whether motivated by faith or otherwise, young or old, these individuals are role models for all of us, demonstrating dedicated care and compassion that goes beyond duty to a level of human solidarity that is inspiring to others. We give thanks to God for raising up such generous human individuals who embrace this collective challenge as a way to witness to the enduring human and social values by which we need to live.

All of these situations described above – the good examples and the social challenges we face – give us insights into certain behaviours, actions and structures that we value as a society and as a Christian people. Some of these we will rightly want to hold on to going forward, while others may be in need of remedy or renewal.

On this feast day when we contemplate Christ's victory over death through the life-giving wood of the Cross, we, the Catholic Bishops of Alberta and the Northwest Territories, invite you to reflect and discern with us the kind of response that will be needed to address some of the human and social values that have surfaced during this pandemic. Specifically, we seek new ways to promote authentic human development and flourishing in the very way that we live, care for others, work, organize society and interact with one another. Moved by our faith in Christ and inspired by the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, we invite the Catholic community to join us in looking afresh at certain aspects of our life together in society, to discern and decide a course for true social, cultural and spiritual renewal.

In the coming weeks, *Grandin Media* will be hosting a series of recorded panel discussions on various themes related to the pandemic and its challenging effects on our society. These sessions, featuring Catholic voices from around the province and territories, are meant to encourage our Catholic faithful to engage new questions and to take up new actions that reflect a “new normal” consistent with our life in Christ. Together with written texts, prepared by our bishops and released weekly, we shall present a series of reflections on the following topics:

- Reflection Topic #1: Inherent dignity of every human life
- Reflection Topic #2: Importance of the family
- Reflection Topic #3: Individual rights and social responsibilities
- Reflection Topic #4: Vulnerability and solidarity
- Reflection Topic #5: Responsibility for the common good
- Reflection Topic #6: Healthy use of information technologies
- Reflection Topic #7: Value and dignity of human work

We encourage all of our faithful to “tune in” to these sessions and take an active part in offering their own experience and wisdom on the topics presented. [An online mechanism will be available to receive your comments and feedback.] In this way, we hope to receive your insights into living our Christian faith in new ways in Catholic homes and in our communities, through our parishes, lay movements, schools and institutions, marked by hope, compassion and charity.

Our Catholic faith has much to contribute with respect to promoting human, social and spiritual values for the common good of society. We trust that you, like us, see the urgency to discern wisely the *signs of the times* and to “reset” our lives so that our collective experience in moving forward accords with the Gospel. Guided by the Holy Spirit, and

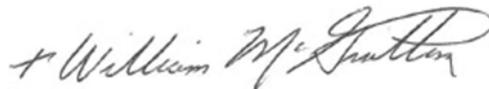
through the intercession of the most holy Mother of God, we are confident that this can be a time for bold creativity and life-giving transformation for all. We ask for God's blessing on this endeavour and upon all who join with us in this journey of discernment and path of renewal.

Yours in Christ,

Catholic Bishops of Alberta and NWT



Most Reverend Richard W. Smith
Archbishop of Edmonton



Most Reverend William McGrattan
Bishop of Calgary



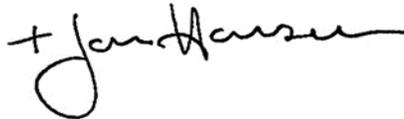
Most Reverend Paul Terrio
Bishop of St. Paul



Most Reverend Gerard Pettipas CSsR
Archbishop of Grouard-McLennan



Most Reverend David Motiuk
Bishop of the Ukrainian Eparchy of
Edmonton



Most Reverend Jon Hansen, CSsR
Bishop of Mackenzie-Fort Smith

September 14, 2020 – Feast of The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

*We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,
because by your Cross you have redeemed the world.*