



NEWS ARCHIVE:

Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon

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***Uniting in Faith* campaign nears completion as construction start approaches for new Cathedral and Catholic Pastoral Centre**

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

The new Holy Family Cathedral and Catholic Pastoral Centre is moving ahead. Tenders closed Nov. 13 for the project, and the contract will be awarded in the coming weeks. Construction is expected to begin in the New Year.

As the *Uniting in Faith* campaign enters its final phase at both the diocesan level and at Holy Family parish, success is imminent, said Don Gorsalitz, director of the Diocesan Development Office. Both campaigns will hopefully reach their goal early in the new year, he said. "Every day a new pledge comes in, bringing the overall goal in closer reach."



Uniting in Faith diocesan chairs Barry and Giselle Frank, then-Saskatoon Bishop Albert LeGatt and building chair Jim Nakoneshny (l-r) stand at the site of the new diocesan Cathedral and Catholic Pastoral Centre.

The new building in northeast Saskatoon will be a parish church for the growing Holy Family faith community, and will also serve as the diocesan Cathedral, replacing St. Paul's Cathedral, which has long been too small to be used for diocesan gatherings. St. Paul's will be designated a "Co-Cathedral" in recognition of its historic status, and will continue to serve as a busy downtown parish. As the new Catholic Pastoral Centre, the building will also be home to diocesan pastoral ministry and chancery offices, the diocesan Resource Library and the archives.

The departure of Bishop Albert LeGatt (who Sept. 21 was installed as archbishop of St. Boniface, Manitoba) will not affect the course of the project, said Gorsalitz.

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A building committee led by chair Jim Nakoneshny, along with pastoral leadership from Fr. David Tumback is moving the project forward just as planned.

“Our bishop showed the leadership required to get this project going to meet some crucial needs facing our diocesan faith family – and it is continuing as envisioned, to meet those ongoing needs,” Gorsalitz said.

“The project is well on its way, and will continue as planned, step-by-step, according to principals of good stewardship and sound discernment,” LeGatt said at the time of his appointment to St. Boniface.

“It has been undertaken to address urgent needs that will continue to exist, no matter who is serving as the bishop of Saskatoon,” he stressed.

“The need for a new parish home for Holy Family, the lack of a functioning cathedral for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, and the severe space crunch at the existing Catholic Pastoral Centre are the factors that have prompted this project and have guided its development,” LeGatt said.

“Answering these needs in this way is a hopeful sign of the present vibrant life of the diocese, and of its confident hope for the future.”

The *Uniting in Faith* campaign’s success lies in more than the financial effort, stresses Gorsalitz. “It has been successful in an even more crucial way – it has raised awareness about how each Catholic is connected to the diocese, and what is the diocesan role in supporting parishes and in leading the church in this time and place.”

Whether people were positive or negative about the campaign, it initiated conversations and brought about new understandings – to the point that many who started out negative, eventually came around to support the project beyond all expectations, Gorsalitz said.

“People asked questions – lots of tough questions. They received answers, they considered those answers, and many then responded with great generosity,” Gorsalitz said of the campaign, which has seen a response unmatched by other fund-raising campaigns in the province. “Rich and poor, urban and rural, people stretched themselves to participate in a meaningful and sacrificial way. And it is not the amounts that matter, as a recent Sunday scripture reading told us,” said Gorsalitz. “The Spirit has been moving.”



He said that he is most encouraged by the awareness that is developing as people across the diocese have started asking themselves questions about their commitment to Church, what their faith means to them, and how that translates into giving at both the diocesan and the parish level. Ultimately, it's about taking personal responsibility for the Church – “not someone else's: ours,” he said.

“This has helped create a renewed awareness that this is *our* Church. Its strengths and its weaknesses are ours. What we do today influences the Church, its mission and its future in our families, our communities and our world. Our response – financially, spiritually and in every way – matters.”

The diocese is building to accommodate its current needs, and with sound planning for the future, said Leah Perrault, director of pastoral services for the diocese. The diocesan services coordinated from the Catholic Pastoral Centre have outgrown the existing building, and the capacity to respond effectively to pastoral needs depends on adequate space, said Perrault.

“Our hopes and dreams for increased ministry, increased service, more programming, greater outreach – it all is contingent upon space from which to operate,” said Perrault.

“Programs like rural catechetics, youth ministry, Lay Formation, vocations, hospital chaplaincy are a huge part of the vitality of our diocese. We know we can do more in all these areas and more and building our capacity to respond in these and so many other areas is what this *Uniting in Faith* campaign is about,” she said.

“We're taking steps to en flesh those dreams, to make them a reality. This new building will be the beginning of growth and renewal in all those areas.”