



An artist's rendition of the planned new Holy Family Cathedral and Catholic Pastoral Centre. Plans call for a construction start in Fall of 2009 or Spring of 2010.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NEW CATHEDRAL AND CATHOLIC PASTORAL CENTRE:

- Q. Why build a new cathedral when St. Patrick can accommodate the diocesan wide events and masses?**
- R. St. Patrick Parish may have the seating required for diocesan gatherings, but it does not have the structural design to accommodate an expansion that would include the Catholic Centre. The site does not have the acreage to accommodate a bigger building, in addition to a much-needed larger parking area. The "cheapest and most available" land for the diocese was available through a partnership with the Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools board of education, which made available the 5.5-acre parcel of land adjacent to St. Joseph's High school in northeast Saskatoon.
- Q. Why build in the affluent northeast quadrant of Saskatoon?**
- R. This area of the city of Saskatoon, desperately needs more church seating to serve its population. In response, and in consultation with

parish and diocesan leaders, the Bishop recommended construction of a new, larger Holy Family parish to serve the expanding neighbourhoods of Sutherland, Erindale, Arbor Greek, Willow Grove, Forest Grove, and Silverspring. A number of factors were considered:

- Holy Family desperately needs to build a new church to accommodate the over 1,400 families it has registered now, with the expectation for that number to increase to 4,000-5,000 families in the coming years.
- This will be the only new church built in the diocese of Saskatoon for the foreseeable future.
- There is enough land on this northeast Saskatoon site to house the Catholic Centre.
- The existing Catholic Centre is in great need of increased office space and parking. The new facility will provide increased capacity to strengthen programs and offer a more suitable space for meetings.

Q. Why does our small prairie diocese need a grandiose Cathedral?

R. In fact, the diocese is striving to use common sense stewardship by modestly enhancing the new Holy Family Parish as part of designating it the diocesan Cathedral. The seating capacity needed by the parish coincides with the seating needed for diocesan celebrations such as the Rite of Election, ordinations, and the Chrism Mass. Also, the space and maintenance efficiencies of building to accommodate the Holy Family rectory, the diocesan Chancery office and the program and service offices of the Catholic Pastoral Centre make enormous fiscal sense.

Q. Why doesn't the diocese spend all this money on programming instead of a building?

R. That is just what is happening here. The diocese is responding to a number of programming problems that have been creeping up for some time now, including:

- an under-served Catholic population in northeast Saskatoon;
- the Catholic Centre's growth in programs and services; for instance, in the
- areas of lay formation, hospital chaplaincy, youth outreach, and prison ministry;
- a demand for more diocesan support of parishes in areas such as youth ministry,

- developing lay leadership, rural catechetics, evangelization, etc.

All of this is actually very good news! It is a sign of an active, searching faith life in our diocesan community. The diocese is building to accommodate its current needs and provide sound planning for our future generations. The Catholic Pastoral Centre will define its role by being a hub of programming activity for the diocese.

Q. I don't live in Saskatoon – why should I support the Cathedral?

- R. Every Catholic is a member of the diocesan family – not just a member of their own local parish. The pastor of the diocese is the Bishop, and the diocesan home church is the Cathedral. To support the Catholic Centre and the diocesan Cathedral is a way to support the Bishop, the pastor of our diocesan family, the manifestation of the universal church. Many programs – including Lay Formation, Rural Catechetics, vocation awareness, Justice and Peace, and the Liturgy Commission – are examples of diocesan responsibilities and programs which fall under the administration of the Catholic Pastoral Centre. Such areas are extremely important to the vitality of our diocese. In addition, we all have a responsibility to reach out to, support and evangelize those beyond our own immediate parish family – including, perhaps, our children or grandchildren, brothers and sisters, neighbours and strangers outside of our own parish – all those across the diocese, both today, and in succeeding generations, who will be reached by diocesan programs and initiatives.

Q. How will a new Cathedral strengthen our Catholic community?

- R. The underlining theme of the Uniting in Faith campaign is that we are being asked to come together to play an important role in building and strengthening our faith community. This is the first time in the history of our diocese that we have been called together to build and invest in something of great substance that will provide increased outreach and strengthened programs. The new Catholic Pastoral Centre and Cathedral will be a symbol of growth and renewal for our diocesan family and will have an impact not only today but for generations to come. We are truly doing what the slogan says: Uniting in Faith.

Q. Is the existing Cathedral being torn down?

- R. No. St. Paul's Cathedral will remain a vital downtown parish. Because of its size, the building has not been able to practically serve as a Cathedral for the past 15 years. However, in recognition of the historic importance of St. Paul's Cathedral, the bishop has asked the Vatican to grant it status as a "co-cathedral." This request has been approved.

Q. Will this mean other smaller parishes closing in Saskatoon?

- R. No. The Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon will always have the need for smaller parishes to be led by older priests who may not have the desire to pastor a parish with a thousand or more families. In addition, there will be no new churches constructed in the foreseeable future, based on solid demographic predictions. Diocesan leadership is working to respond in a variety of common sense ways to meet the diverse needs of the diocese – including both small parishes and large parishes, urban and rural. Pastoral leadership options include appointing priest pastors to serve in one parish; establishing parish clusters served by a single priest; as well as sometimes using a pastoral team model consisting of a Parish Life Director and a Priest Moderator who share pastoral leadership.

Q. How will the Cathedral support itself financially after it is built? Will this be a Diocesan and parish responsibility?

- R. Yes, it will be a shared responsibility, but because both the diocese and Holy Family parish currently have building operations budgets, there will be little change to either the parish or the diocesan budgets – each will continue to be responsible for all that they are currently responsible for, including operating within their annual costs. There will also be revenue from renting a multi-purpose hall which is projected to cover all operational costs for the hall.

Q. Who is being asked to support the campaign?

Holy Family parish is committed to building their parish home, and are taking a leadership role in raising funds for their share of the project. By the end of this Uniting in Faith campaign effort all diocesan parishioners from communities across the diocese will have had the opportunity to make a gift to support this campaign. Right now, efforts to secure major pacesetting and leadership gifts are setting the foundation for the general parish campaign to follow in early 2009.