

Cathedral and Pastoral Centre project on verge of going to tender as bishop leaves diocese

As Bishop Albert LeGatt leaves the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon to take up his new role as archbishop of St. Boniface, Manitoba as of Sept. 21, the *Uniting in Faith* project that he launched to build a new Cathedral and Catholic Pastoral Centre is going ahead, with the tendering process proceeding this fall (see schedule on Page 3).



“As I leave the diocese, I am especially touched by how much has already been accomplished through the *Uniting in Faith* campaign in terms of drawing the diocese closer together and strengthening the links between the diocese and parishes,” said Bishop LeGatt.

“I am also extremely grateful for the ongoing response to the fund-raising campaign, which is very near to reaching our goal.”

While a few parishes continue to work on their parish *Uniting in Faith* campaign, the vast majority across the diocese have concluded the effort just as the Bishop’s Annual Appeal is launched this fall.

The *Uniting in Faith* campaign is about a once-in-a-lifetime building project, while the ongoing support of the Bishop’s Annual Appeal provides vital funding for ministries and outreach happening right now in the diocese of Saskatoon.

“For more than 25 years, the Bishop’s Annual Appeal has funded programming, ministry and groups in our diocese. All of the money raised is completely expended each year,” LeGatt noted, encouraging the faithful to look carefully at the list of programs supported by the BAA, which includes everything from Youth Ministry to Hospital Chaplaincy, from the education of priests to Rural Catechetics, from Justice and Peace to Lay Formation – as well as groups in the community such as L’Arche, Catholic Christian Outreach, Teen Aid, St. Thomas More College in Saskatoon, St. Peter’s College in Muenster, St. Paul’s Hospital and Friendship Inn.

“The heart of both of these efforts lies in becoming even more of a diocesan family of faith, continually reaching out in all these ways to further Christ’s mission in the world, both on a day-to-day basis through the BAA and into the future through *Uniting in Faith*.”

Leah Perrault, the Director of Pastoral Services at the Catholic Pastoral Centre, said her first reaction when hearing about the *Uniting in Faith* building project, was that it would



Uniting in Faith campaign chairs Barry and Giselle Frank, with Bishop Albert LeGatt and building committee chair Jim Nakoneshny (l-r) visit the site of the new Cathedral and Catholic Pastoral Centre on Attridge Drive.

be better to first put money into programming, rather than into infrastructure. But as the *Uniting in Faith* campaign unfolded, she found herself “converted by the process.”

Discussions prompted by the campaign, and the creation of needed space from which programming can be offered (programming that has been built up, sustained and supported each year by the BAA for the past quarter century), is a precursor to being able “to do more with the programs in the future, to respond more quickly and in relevant ways to the needs across the diocese,” she said.

“Our Bishop’s Annual Appeal has been an intrinsic part of creating an engaged and responsive community that is capable of raising more money than any organization in this province. The BAA has laid the ground work, and in this interim period when two campaigns have been placed before us, it is important to understand that the BAA makes it possible to continue what we’re doing now, while the *Uniting in Faith* campaign will ensure that we can continue building our faith and fulfilling our mission for many, many more years,” Perrault said.

Cross is the focal point for entire building: design elements illustrate beliefs

Rising 176 feet into the prairie sky, the spire of the new Holy Family Cathedral expresses the spiritual truth that our faith is built upon the cross.

In the case of the building itself, it is also literally true. “The massive central cross is literally holding up the building, acting as the kingpin which locks the entire roof structure together,” says building committee chair Jim Nakoneshny.

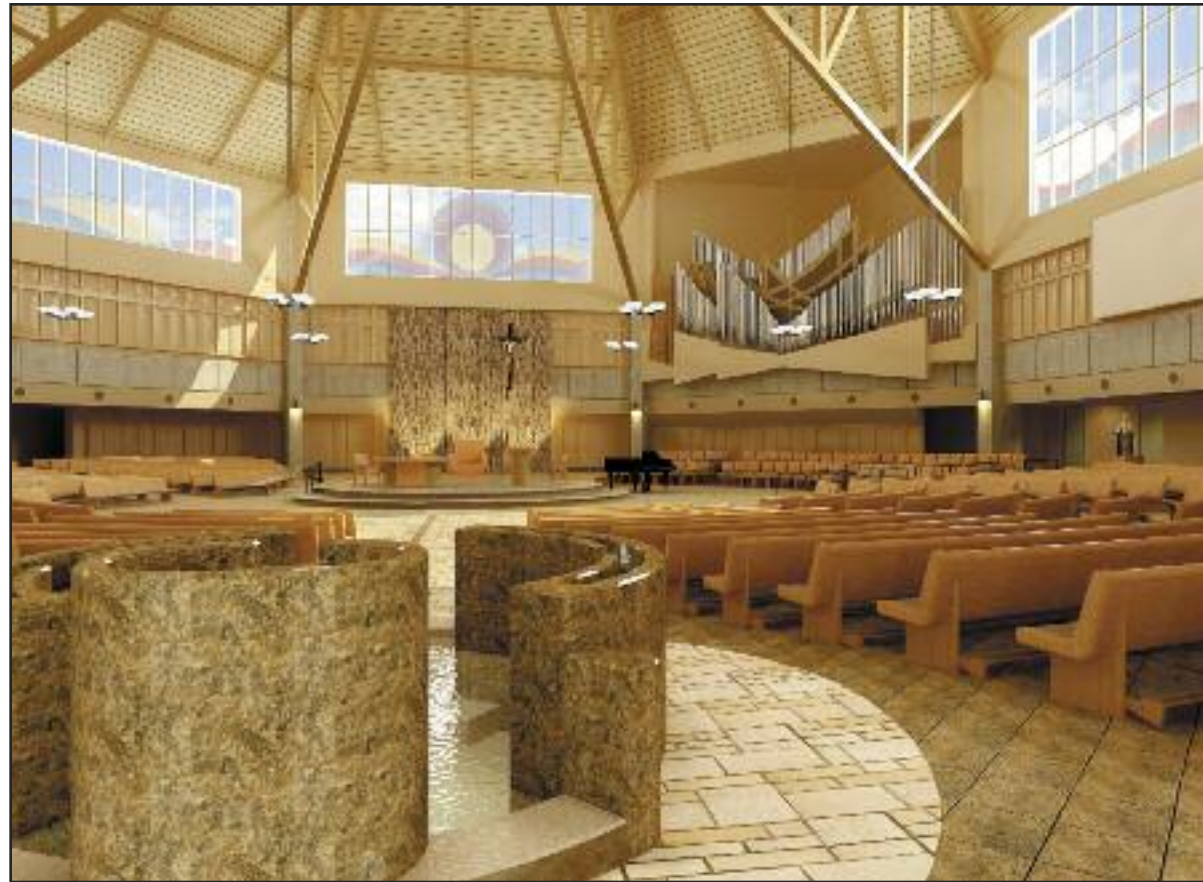
“Our design architect Obert Friggstad has said that the design was inspired by the hymn ‘Lift High the Cross’, with the building proudly proclaiming itself as a House of God,” Nakoneshny says, explaining the profound significance of the soaring spiral roofline and the large central cross.

This key part of the design is also visible inside the cathedral’s worship space – the base of the soaring exterior cross can be seen some 30 feet above the church floor.

“As Christ was lifted to the Father, we lift our praises to the Father in union with him,” adds Bishop Albert LeGatt. “The very architectural design is a visual expression of praise and worship to our God.”

Welcome, inclusion, belonging and unity are concepts that will be embodied in the very wood and stone of the new Holy Family Cathedral, says Fr. David Tumback, pastor of Holy Family parish and director of liturgy for the diocese. “There’s an overriding sense of unity, of oneness, of welcome in all of the architecture, in all the appointments.”

The main entrance into the worship space will feature a large, circular exterior plaza, with two key features: the Easter fire receptacle and a sculpture of the Holy Family.



An artist's rendering of the interior of the cathedral worship space: the heart and soul of the building.

The design of the worship space incorporates the circle: from the circular plaza leading into the building, to the rounded shape of the sanctuary and the baptismal font. It is a design that is very faithful to the early church, notes Tumback. “The round shape signifies a sense of unity. It also provides a sense of embrace.”

The entrance to the cathedral features three pairs of over-sized doors, set in a prominent cut-stone surrounding design to emphasize the significance of entering the home of God’s family.

A large expanse of clear glass across the front of the building serves to further enhance the sense of openness, and to draw visitors into the building. “Our call is to be inclusive and welcoming, and the building design itself expresses that sense that everyone is welcome here,” says Tumback.

The building as a whole must fulfill a wide variety of functions (parish church, diocesan cathedral, private residence, meeting space, office building, library, archive facility, performance venue, banquet hall and community centre), but

the heart and soul of the structure is the main worship space.

“The first thing you encounter at the door is the flowing water of the baptismal font,” describes Nakoneshny. Carved out of granite, the font’s prominent placement clearly reflects the importance of the sacrament of baptism in our Christian journey.

The large altar and ambo are also carved from granite, reflecting the materials of the baptismal font, and illustrating that sacrament’s connection to the Eucharist.

The sanctuary comes out into the midst of the congregation, inviting participation. “It goes back to the call of Vatican II for full, conscious and active participation of all the people,” says Tumback.

Curved hardwood pews (with kneelers) surround the sanctuary, laid out to further strengthen this call to participation. Seating capacity is around 1200, yet no seat is further than 70 feet from the sanctuary, notes Nakoneshny

“One of the recurring themes in this project has been about the sense of journey, whether in the historic migration of our ancestors, or as a personal journey of faith,” says Nakoneshny. “As we worked out the positioning of the different elements in the liturgical design, it became evident that there was an inherent story of a spiritual journey laid out upon the church floor – a story which revealed itself in the form of a path.”

The path emanates from the baptismal font, the beginning point of our spiritual lives. It leads, accompanied by the support and encouragement of the congregation (seated on either side of the path) towards the sanctuary, he describes. “There, through the priest, it encompasses the mysteries of the Eucharist at the altar and enlightens us at the ambo. Finally the path continues through the bishop’s chair and towards the cross.”

The cross, with its sculpture of Christ at the very moment of his ultimate sacrifice in praise of the Father, depicts Christ as he utters “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit,” notes Bishop LeGatt.

The position of the path illustrates how under the guidance of our diocesan shepherd, the

Tender process and construction schedule:

The projected timeline for the Cathedral/Pastoral Centre project is:

- Completion of design and tender requirements in early September;
- Tender and selection of general contractor and all sub-trades and sub-contractors throughout October and November;
- Review and approval of contracts in December;
- Formal construction starting in January, on-site construction starting by spring 2010;
- Projected completion of construction is the fall of 2011.

bishop, we seek to fulfill our life’s journey in the presence of the crucified and risen Christ, who will gather us one day in heavenly worship, Nakoneshny points out.

The path that images this faith journey will be visible within the design of the finished floor, and will be echoed in the stone wall behind the crucifix. The path and wall will be created from Jerusalem limestone, shipped to Saskatoon from quarries in Israel. “Perhaps, in centuries past, this stone has been trod by other pilgrims on their own journey of faith,” says Nakoneshny, describing the feature as his favourite part of the building.

“The stone path from the baptismal font, to the rock wall of the crucifix, the final sacrifice, is also intimately connected to the Easter fire, and that connection will be seen in how the rock is used in the design,” adds Tumback. “Everything is interconnected.”

“In the building itself, in the circular nature of the design, and in the spire as it goes up on the angle to the cross, there is the sense of all that we are being gathered together and then being lifted up to God in worship,” says Tumback.

“It speaks to us as a prairie people,” he adds. “The architecture and the design represents who we are as the family of God in this place and time in the diocese of Saskatoon, and gives glory to our God.”

Sustainable design connects building to creation

Wood and stone, stained glass and natural light will be used in the new Cathedral and Catholic Pastoral Centre to create a worshipping space that echoes and connects to creation. But principles of sustainability and good stewardship have also been incorporated throughout the building design, adds building chair Jim Nakoneshny.

For instance, on the upper façade there will be a south-facing expanse of solar glass using photo-voltaic cells. “The power that is generated can be stored and used for evening illumination,” explains Nakoneshny.

Energy efficiency and a healthy work environment have played a major role in the selection of materials and equipment in the new facility, he adds.

“The design team has chosen to implement sustainable and forward-thinking design principles wherever possible. As one example, natural daylight will reach almost every interior space in the new building. Special care has also been taken in the design and specifications of the heating and cooling systems, windows, and insulation. Over all, this will be a very ‘green’ project.”

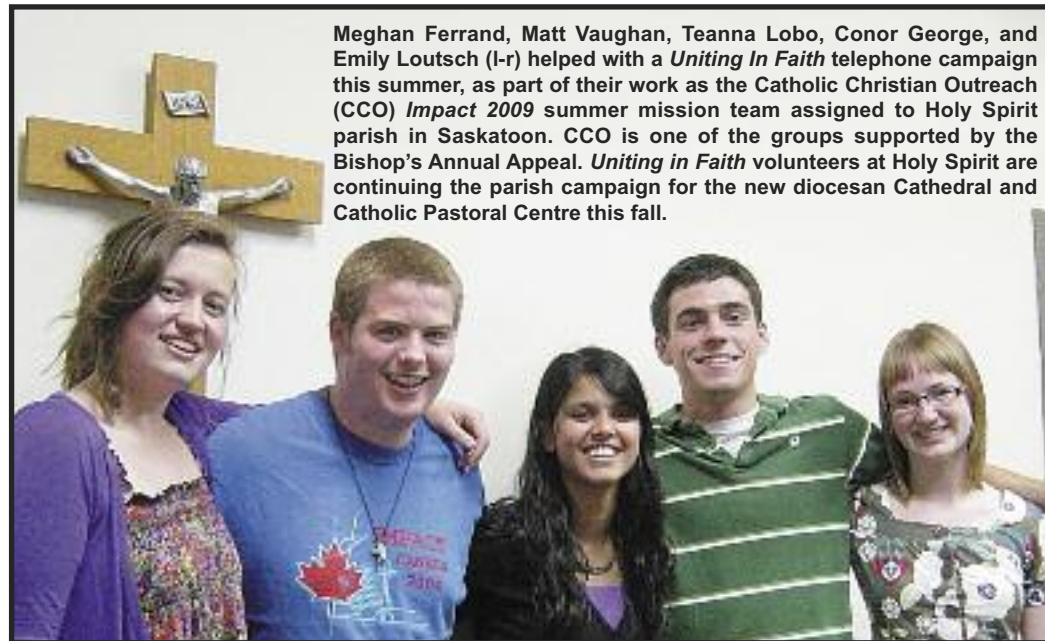
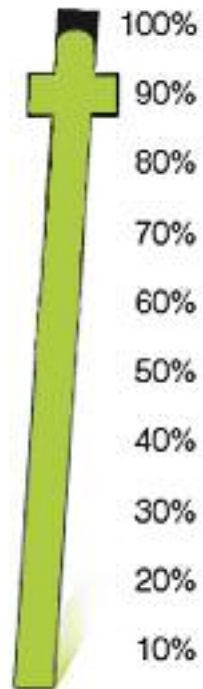


Colm Leyne (*left*) is the new coordinator of Youth Ministry for the diocese of Saskatoon, while Myron Rogal is coordinating the office of Vocations and Scripture Resources, as well as coordinating the Diocesan Youth Retreat Team (DYRT). Coordinated from the Catholic Pastoral Centre, all of these ministries are supported each year by the Bishop's Annual Appeal.



Gladys McElwee (*centre*) recently began work as coordinator of Roman Catholic Hospital Chaplaincy at Saskatoon City Hospital and Royal University Hospital, replacing Nancy Buttinger who is on maternity leave. Priest chaplains Fr. Theophilus Habadah (*left*) and Fr. Rev. Rhéal Bussière are also serving the sick and suffering in the two hospitals. As diocesan Hospital Chaplaincy coordinator, McElwee provides support and training to volunteers – and works to recruit and train more volunteers to answer the great need for pastoral ministry. She also spends time visiting patients. This diocesan office is supported by the Bishop's Annual Appeal.

Diocesan moments



Meghan Ferrand, Matt Vaughan, Teanna Lobo, Conor George, and Emily Loutsch (*l-r*) helped with a *Uniting In Faith* telephone campaign this summer, as part of their work as the Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO) *Impact 2009* summer mission team assigned to Holy Spirit parish in Saskatoon. CCO is one of the groups supported by the Bishop's Annual Appeal. *Uniting in Faith* volunteers at Holy Spirit are continuing the parish campaign for the new diocesan Cathedral and Catholic Pastoral Centre this fall.

Diocesan goal:
\$12.5 million.

Holy Family goal:
\$16 million

Total: \$28.5 million



Learn more about the
Catholic Pastoral Centre:
www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com

Learn more about the
Uniting in Faith campaign:
www.unitinginfaith.ca

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