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News of northern Bishop’s appointment greeted with joy and thanksgiving

SASKATOON, December 15, 2017 – The appointment of Rev. Jon Hansen, CSsR, as the seventh bishop of the Diocese of Mackenzie-Fort Smith is great news, says the northern diocese’s former bishop, Most Rev. Mark Hagemoen.

“With gratitude and excitement, we welcome the news of the appointment of Bishop-Elect Jon Hansen as the seventh bishop of the Diocese of Mackenzie-Fort Smith,” said Hagemoen, who was recently installed as Bishop of Saskatoon.

While Hagemoen was bishop of Mackenzie-Fort Smith, Hansen came to serve in the northern diocese as pastor of Our Lady of Victory parish in Inuvik, with responsibility also for the missions of Tsiigehtchic, Tuktoyaktuk and Paulatuk, all located in the Diocese of Mackenzie-Fort Smith.

“In the short time that Bishop-elect Hansen has been in the north, he has demonstrated a pastor’s heart that guides everything he does,” said Hagemoen. “Hansen is also a capable administrator, which he has demonstrated in the parish and Arctic region, and as he has facilitated ministry and restoration projects in the resource-challenged region.”

“We are all grateful to the Holy Father, Pope Francis, for providing a new shepherd for the diocese – a man with such a shepherd’s way and the right gifts to pastor the Mackenzie-Fort Smith diocese.”

Bishop-elect Hansen, 50, was born in Edmonton and raised in Grand Prairie, AB, joining the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (the Redemptorists) and professing religious vows in 1998. He was ordained to the priesthood in 2004 and has served in St. John’s, Newfoundland, and in Toronto. In 2009 he was appointed pastor of St. Mary parish in Saskatoon.

During his six years in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, Hansen served on the Diocesan Council for Truth and Reconciliation and the Council of Priests, as well as working closely with the diocesan Office of Migration and the Office of Justice and Peace.

More information about the appointment, including a brief biography of Bishop-Elect Rev. Jon Hansen, can be found on the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) website: http://www.cccb.ca/site/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4853:appointment-of-new-bishop-for-mackenzie-fort-smith&catid=23:media-releases&Itemid=1636

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