



**Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon**  
**OFFICE OF THE BISHOP**

123 Nelson Rd  
Saskatoon SK S7S 1H1  
[www.rcdos.ca](http://www.rcdos.ca)

Phone: 306-242-1500  
Fax: 306-244-6010  
Toll free: 877-661-5005



November 18, 2019  
Dedication of Basilicas of Saints Peter & Paul

**UPDATE re: “Covenant of Care” &  
Fifth Estate Program of November 17, 2019**

**Dear Clergy, Religious, & Lay Faithful of the Diocese of Saskatoon:**

I am pleased to update you regarding our efforts re: Covenant of Care and briefly address the television program of the Fifth Estate which viewed last evening,

The Fifth Estate ‘news item’ was timed to pre-empt the upcoming release by the Archdiocese of Vancouver of a report from a special committee set up to review all historical cases of allegations of clergy abuse, to independently reflect on the course of action taken in each case by the archdiocese at the time of each incident, and to evaluate and inform current policy. The focus of the television program was largely on the report completed in June 2019 of the ‘historical case review committee’ and the desire by SNAP (Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests) to have all names of clergy ‘credibly accused’ named publicly.


While the presentation was disappointing in not providing for the breadth of perspective on issues that demand serious attention by the Church and our larger culture, I do think Almighty God is leading us forward in this time of reflection on a very difficult aspect of our church’s history. As Sister Nancy Brown reminded us at the recent Clergy Study Week, the Holy Spirit is also calling us to ongoing conversion,

“...as we deal with this time of intense pain and shame, (whereby) all are called to show compassionate care, listening deeply to the pain, shame, anger, confusion, disbelief and questioning of faith. It is a time to listen unconditionally without judgement, rejecting all cover ups, revealing all secrets, calling perpetrators to accountability and walking with the survivors.”

I am grateful for the work of our Diocesan Committee – chaired by Brenda Fitzgerald, and our Diocesan Coordinator of Care – Theresa Campbell – for their good work in guiding our diocese towards a greater culture of safeguarding in the Church, which features working toward the elimination of violence and cultivating a culture of harmony and wellbeing. I also thank you all for your good work and support in this important issue for our diocese and church.

Yours in Christ,

✠ Most Reverend Mark A. Hagemoen

 In all things we are *rooted in Christ*,  
in His desire to bring God’s love to all peoples.