

A Message from the Most Reverend

# Bishop Mark A. Hagemoen

*Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,*

This Annual Report covers the 2019-2020 fiscal and ministry year, which began so hopefully with the launch of our diocesan Pastoral Plan in the fall of 2019 and which ended in the midst of the global pandemic that has changed so many things in our lives, our ministries and our outreach.

Before and during the challenges of the global COVID-19 pandemic in this 2019-2020 period, our mission to Proclaim Christ and God's Kingdom Today has not changed or wavered. The Church has not stopped or closed – in fact during this tragedy we have seen God's grace inspire many new insights and opportunities for outreach.

During the 2019-2020 year we saw three main themes unfold, namely:

- **PASTORAL PLAN** - The launch of a three-year diocesan Pastoral Plan with its identified mission to “Proclaim Christ and God’s Kingdom Today” and the new initiatives and renewed focus resulting from the proclaimed priorities of the plan introduced across the diocese starting in September 2019.
- **SAFEGUARDING** - The ongoing efforts to strengthen safeguarding and the Covenant of Care in our diocese, parishes and ministries, with training sessions, updates to policy, and the March 15, 2020 release of a Safeguarding Action Plan, entitled “Safer Church, Safer Communities,” which includes 20 safeguarding commitments to prevent and respond to abuse.
- **COVID-19 RESPONSE** – The efforts that followed the March to May 2020 shutdown of worship gatherings under public health orders and restrictions, which saw our diocese and our parishes diligently and creatively using new methods of communicating and providing outreach, the increasing

use of live-streaming and other technology, as well as ongoing efforts to maintain church operations during the shutdown, including accessing government funding assistance to maintain staffing levels.

In this Annual Report you will see examples of ministry and services provided in our diocese as together we answered our call to Proclaim Christ.

I would also note that a number of initiatives have since come to fruition past the 2019-2020 scope of this report, including: the arrival of the Verbum Dei Sisters to provide ministry in our diocese, the introduction of an Academic Vocation Program and of an Indigenous Pastoral and Lay Leadership Education Program, a change in the age of confirmation of children from Grade 2 to Grade 6, the introduction of a new format for the Adult Faith Enrichment program and the hiring of an Evangelization and Mission leader, as well as the continuation of online events, communication and outreach.

I am profoundly grateful for the ongoing generous and faithful support of the people of God in this diocese and for the solidarity and zeal that I have witnessed every day during the scope of this report and beyond. I recognize that I speak this message of hope given that our country and our world face many challenges to the message and vision of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Together we go forward into 2021, seeking and trusting in God to guide us through the challenges of this pandemic and form us as His disciples who Proclaim Christ to a hungry and searching world.

+ Mark A. Hagemoen  
Bishop of Saskatoon

