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**New Youth and Young Adult Ministry Initiative:
“Project Timothy”**


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

I am pleased to announce the launch of our new youth and young adult ministry initiative, “Project Timothy”. The vision for this initiative comes out of our Diocesan Pastoral Plan: “Our Mission to Proclaim Christ and God’s kingdom Today.” Several of the priorities of this plan inform our new youth and young adult ministry approach. These include:

- Helping young people discern God’s call to share in the Mission and Life of the Lord;
- Strengthening and Supporting Vocations;
- Promoting the Healing Journey;
- Supporting a Deepening Friendship and Intimacy with Jesus Christ.

The focus of Project Timothy is calling and supporting youth as ‘disciples’ through what Pope Francis calls, “the art of accompaniment.” This initiative will feature the calling forth of senior youth and young adults as leaders and mentors for younger youth. This initiative will also connect with the new age for Confirmation: Grade 6. Young people who complete their Confirmation will be better supported in their call to discipleship following their Confirmation. This initiative also connects with the new “Sts. Benedict and Scholastic Formation Program” – recently launched in partnership with St. Thomas More College. Finally, this initiative also reflects the new focus in our adult faith enrichment initiatives emphasizing discipleship and evangelization.

I am very pleased to also announce the two Coordinators of this initiative: Sr. Marta Piano, VDFM, and John Hickey. As stated by Sr. Marta, the initiative will seek to “...accompany, equip and empower...” a team of young leaders within the Diocese. “These missionary disciples will go out to form their own apostolates and/or small groups among the youth, their peers, in schools and parishes, and anywhere the mission field takes them.”

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

I take this opportunity to recognize and thank Marilyn Jackson: Director of Ministry Services; the Youth Ministry Committee, Jacob Powell, and others a part of the discernment process; and our new co-leaders, Sr. Marta Piano and John Hickey.

Although the Covid19 pandemic delayed the launch of this initiative, it is very good to be at the point of finally moving forward. May the Holy Spirit – who has led us to this point – bless and guide all of our efforts in support of children, youth, young adults, and all families and communities.

Yours in Christ



✠ Most Reverend Mark A. Hagemoen