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

**On the Occasion of the Election of Pope Leo XIV**

It is with joy and hope that I acknowledge with you the election of Pope Leo XIV. This of course follows the passing of Pope Francis on Easter Monday – just a few weeks ago.

There is already much commentary about the man previously known as Cardinal Robert Prevost – and especially on why he may have chosen the name “Leo”. I am sure he will give much explanation for this in the near future.

However, at this time we celebrate his leadership as a missionary servant to God’s people; his work of dialogue and building bridges; his work to bring ongoing growth, organisation, and reform to the governance structures of the Church.

I join with all of you as we unite in prayer and hope for the papal leadership of Pope Leo XIV, and the future of our Church in this Jubilee Year of Hope. May the same *hope* that so inspired Pope Francis also inspire and bless Pope Leo XIV, and of course all our diocese as we thank God at this time of the election of the Holy Father.

In the words of Pope Leo XIV in his opening address, “*Peace be with all of you!*”

Sincerely in Christ,

✠ Mark A. Hagemoen