

Roman Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of Calgary



10 March 2019
1st Sunday of Lent

Dear Fathers Bill and Haven and all your brother priests;
Members of the University of Calgary Catholic Community;
Parishioners of St. Pius X Church,

“...and the Lord God brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey.”

We hear these words in our first reading as we begin our Lenten observance. By them, the Israelite people are reminded by Moses of how their Lord had been leading them, caring for them and promised to deliver them into a new land which would provide them with new blessings. This journey is fitting for us to contemplate with respect to university chaplaincy and young adult ministry in the Diocese of Calgary.

For nearly sixty years, the parish of St. Pius X has been the spiritual home of an important and sometimes forgotten demographic among our faithful: university students and young adults. For the same length of time, the University of Calgary Catholic Community has offered a warm welcome to any and all throughout our city who, in this transitory phase of life, were looking for a place to experience faith and fellowship.

Therefore, it is with immense gratitude that, in my own name, in the name of my predecessors and on behalf of the entire Diocese of Calgary, I offer thanks today to St. Pius X Church and her parishioners who have generously hosted the UCCC all these many years. I add to that my thanks to the numerous diocesan priests and Basilian Fathers who have served as chaplains for the last number of decades. I wish to especially thank the Vietnamese Vicariate of Dominican Fathers who have generously provided a chaplain to this apostolate for the last many years, most recently.

We have witnessed many changes in our city and diocese, not the least of which has been its remarkable growth and the addition of many post-secondary institutions spread throughout each quadrant of our city. In response to these changing times, we have discerned that it is time to lead the university student and young adult community into a new spiritual and pastoral home through the new outreach, St. Francis Xavier Chaplaincy, situated at St. Bernard's Church in Parkdale and entrusted to the pastoral care of the diocesan Director of Vocations. It is our hope that this centre of apostolic outreach among the future leaders of our community and Church will find in this community their unique, personal vocations and the common vocation of us all as missionary disciples, called for by our Holy Father, Pope Francis.

In the homily of the mass inaugurating the Chaplaincy on January 21st, I echo our Lord's words to his disciples, *new wine calls for new wine skins*. In these rapidly changing times which present new challenges and new opportunities for our young people, it is my hope and prayer

Roman Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of Calgary



that they will be met with abundant grace as we strive to provide such *new wineskins*.
Let us also pray that the Lord of the Harvest will bring forth the new wine of vocations
throughout this diocese and beyond.

It is with deep gratitude and thanks to each and every one of you who have served our young
people and will continue for many years to come, I invoke God's blessings on you all.

St. Pius X;
St. Bernard;
St. Francis Xavier;
Pray for us!

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William T. McGrattan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'W'.

✱ William T. McGrattan
Bishop of Calgary