2026 Bishop's Annual Appeal

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

As we embark on this year's Bishop's Annual Appeal, I invite you to take the opportunity to reflect on our theme: **"Called to Respond: Living the Father's Will"** These words remind us of Jesus's reflection and call to us to live and act in the love of His Father and our Father:

"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love."(John 15: 9-10)

Pope Leo has just provided us with his first encyclical titled, Magnifica Humanitas ("Our Magnificent Humanity"). The pope is responding to our world marked by restlessness, uncertainty, and increasing concerns about the state of our common humanity in the world, with a message about the profound greatness of our common human dignity. As Pope Leo states,

"There is also the more profound and important level of ontological dignity. This is the dignity that belongs to every human being simply by virtue of existing, of having been willed, created and loved by God. No sin, failure, humiliation or exclusion can diminish the profound value of a human life that God has willed and called into being."
(MH #52).

This dignity is blessed and manifest to one another and to the world as we love and act like God.

The Bishop's Annual Appeal is not simply a fundraiser. It is a personal and communal act of discipleship and a way by which we participate in the mission of Christ in our world of today. Through the Bishop's Annual Appeal, that mission becomes visible across our diocese. Your generosity helps support seminarians preparing for priesthood, ministries serving families and youth, outreach to the poor and vulnerable, Indigenous reconciliation initiatives, pastoral care in our parishes, Catholic education and faith formation, and the many works of evangelization that proclaim Christ's love in our communities.

I therefore invite every parishioner, every family, and every community in our diocese to prayerfully consider how you can support this year's Bishop's Annual Appeal. No gift is too small when it is offered with faith and love.
The aim of our appeal is not *"to have people giving more"*- but rather, *"to have more people giving!"* ...participating and sharing together the work of God's people in our local faith communities ...for our world of today. Thank you for your prayers, your generosity, and your faithful witness to Christ.
May Mary, Mother of the Church, who responded wholeheartedly to God's call, intercede for us. May she teach us to say with courage and humility: *"May it be done to me according to your word."*

I conclude with the words well known to us from St. Francis of Assisi, as we celebrate 2026 as the Year of St. Francis: *"Lord, make me a channel of Your peace; Where there is hatred let me bring You love; ...Where there is despair, hope; For it is in giving that we receive; and in dying that we are born to eternal life."* (Prayer of St. Francis)

BAA Video

Sincerely in Christ,

+MAHagemoen

Most Reverend Mark A. Hagemoen
Bishop of Saskatoon

Generations of Faith
St. Paul's Co-Cathedral Renovation

St. Paul's Co-Cathedral Parish

720 Spadina Crescent East
Saskatoon, SK S7K 3H2
Rector: Very Rev. Fr. Stefano Penna
Parochial Vicar: Rev. Fr. Andrzej Wychucki
Deacon: Rev. Mr. Donat Davatz
Pastoral Assistant: Sr. Peter Mary 306-986-3885
Office: (306) 652-0033
E-Mail address: parish@stpaulcocathedral.ca
Website: www.stpaulscc.com

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 4, 2026

Bishop's Annual Appeal: "Called to Respond: Living the Father's Will"

I went shopping the other evening and once again crashed into the reality of expensive essentials. A life of plenty costs us plenty to live. Yet, to be Catholic means that all of our time is not to be given over to complaints. Canada might celebrate "Thanksgiving" once a year – for us, Eucharist ("*Thanksgiving*") is a weekly, a daily, celebration. It means lifting our heads and letting the Providence of God open us up to see Hope and Love awaiting us. St. Paul tells us this week: "***Do not be anxious about anything,*** *but in everything by prayer and supplication* ***with thanksgiving*** *let your requests be made known to God.*"(Phil. 4:6) Our Lord made the point before St. Paul:

Do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' ... indeed ***your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God*** *and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."*(Mt. 6:21)

So, getting our vision elevated to "seek the Kingdom" ("*thy Kingdom come, thy will be done...*) is the key to a life of thanksgiving not of anxious grouchy-making. Jesus is opening to us the way in which He does not worry: He is seeking first the Kingdom of God. His whole Being is to do the will of the Father ("*on earth as it is in Heaven*") – so "anxiety" is not part of His life (though certainly "distress" was in Gethsemane). Last Sunday, St. Paul told us to "*Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus*" (Phil. 2:5) – as Jesus emptied Himself to do the Will of the Father. This is the center of our call as Catholics. Knowing how God has made us Holy (*Let us live "with thanksgiving" that banishes anxiety*) in Christ, so we can *be Holy* in Christ by responding to the Father's Will by "emptying" ourselves and becoming "*obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross*).

It is precisely this wonderful gift of being Christian that shapes our Bishop's invitation to the Annual Appeal. I invite you to *read His Letter and respond as the mind of Christ* impels you.

If I may say so, this community of St. Paul's is so very responsive to the Father's Will – particularly in the thanksgiving gifts to the Father of our spiritual, monetary, and energy resources. True it is that this is not out of "charity" but justice as the *Catechism* instructs us, "**The faithful also have the duty of providing for the material needs of the Church, each according to his abilities**" (CCC § 2043, *Fifth Precept of the Church*). Yet, in the face of the times which stretch us, having ensured that essential personal and family needs are met, **you have been so ... loving**. Our **Renovation** has been made holy by every bit of prayer, work, and financial support. The Bishop has been a great support for us, and knows that due to circumstances we have not been able to meet our **Appeal target** over the years. We also have been tightening our belts in our **operations**, despite the blessed growth of our parish community. So, while priests are often loath to ask for financial support, I know that in your giving you will grow more deeply in seeking the Kingdom by living the Father's will.

This fresco in Subiaco was painted during Francis' life

Today, October 4 is the 800th anniversary of the *Transitus* into Heaven of St. Francis. He is a model of *seeking first the kingdom of God.* This is a Holy Year of St. Francis and you can check out our Webpage for information on obtaining Plenary Indulgences.

MONDAY, October 5, 2026
St. Faustina Kowalska (OM)
11:30 am - Confessions & Rosary
12:10 pm - **Mass** *(SI John & Teresa Bitz)*

TUESDAY, October 6, 2026
Bl. Marie-Rose Durocher (OM) & St. Bruno (OM)
11:30 am - Confessions & Rosary
12:10 pm - **Mass** *(† Gerardo & Elia Zara)*
7:00 pm - Marriage Prep
7:45 pm - Holy Face

WEDNESDAY, October 7, 2026
Our Lady of the Rosary (M)
11:30 am - Confessions, & Rosary
12:10 pm - **Mass** *(† Joseph Ginter)*
1:00 pm - **Eucharistic Adoration**

THURSDAY, October 8, 2026
11:30 am - Confessions & Rosary
12:10 pm - **Mass** *(† Louis Szabo)*
8:00 pm - Christ the King Prayer Group

FRIDAY, October 9, 2026
St. Denis & Companions (OM)
St. John Leonardi (OM)
11:30 am - Confessions & Rosary
12:10 pm - **Mass** *(† Mary Fernandez)*
4:30 pm - RCIC
5:30 pm - Sto. Nino Prayer Group
6:30 pm - RCIA
7:00 pm - Rehearsal

SATURDAY, October 10, 2026
Our Lady's Saturday (OM)
8:00 am - Eritrean **Mass**
11:00 am - Rosary rally
11:30 am - Confessions & Rosary
12:10 pm - **Mass** *(SI Dominic Schlichemeyer & Mary Porter)*
2:00 pm - Wedding

SUNDAY, October 11, 2026
28th Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00 am - **Mass**
10:00 am - **Mass**
12:30 pm - Eritrean **Mass**
8:00 pm - **Mass**

Class for First Reconciliation for children grade 2 and up will begin October 28! Classes will be held Wednesday evenings at 4:30pm. Registrations can be found on the website or by contacting Sr. Peter Mary at **srpetermary@stpaulcocathedral.ca** Registrations are open until October 20.

Canada Needs Our Lady – Join us for the Rosary on the front steps of St. Paul's Co-Cathedral
Saturday, October 10 at 11:00 am
For more information see http://cnol.org

Eucharistic Adoration
Wednesdays 1 - 5 pm

Devotion to the Holy Face of Jesus
Tuesday, October 6 at 7:45 pm
All are welcome

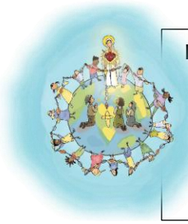
Our Lady of Victories – Our Lady of the Rosary OCTOBER 7 All the soldiers going to battle [against the overwhelming Islamic forces of Turkey in 1574] were also required to pray the Rosary. On the morning of October 7, everyone in the Christian navy attended Mass and received absolution. The banners of their ships were replaced with holy images, and the leader of the Holy League, Don Jon of Austria, wore a relic of the True Cross around his neck, given to him by St. Pius V."
(*The Power of the Rosary*, Gabriel Castillo)

OFFERING for September 27, 2026

Cash Donations	$ 688.05
Envelopes	$ 3,095.00
Renovations	$ 28,119.67

Time Out for Moms is a Catholic faith enrichment and fellowship group in the diocese of Saskatoon, with mothers gathering to enjoy a light breakfast and listen to speakers at the Cathedral of the Holy Family from 9:15 to 11:15 a.m. Tuesday mornings, **starting Oct. 6.** Childcare is available with volunteer caregivers. The fall term theme is "The Little Domestic Church on the Prairie." Visit the website https://tofmsaskatoonsk.wixsite.com/mysite for more information and to register. Volunteer caregivers are also needed: for information, please visit the website.

Called and Gifted - All lay parishioners, priests and religious are invited to more deeply discern the charisms God has given uniquely to them in order to build up God's Kingdom. An Introductory Workshop for the Called and Gifted discernment process from the Catherine of Siena Institute will be held from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. **Saturday, Oct. 17**, at the Catholic Pastoral Centre, second floor, Cathedral of the Holy Family. Cost is $75 (includes lunch and materials.) Register online at: https://form.jotform.com/261529066334256 or contact diocesan Adult Faith coordinator Astrid Alas for more information: 306-659-5858 or amalas@rcdos.ca



It is never too late to join Pope Leo in the "A Million Children Praying the Rosary" Oct. 1-7. Check out the web page at acninternational.org

St. Mary Mission & Outreach - For the 4th year, St. Mary Parish Hall will serve as a winter warm-up location, offering shelter, warmth and dignity to people experiencing homelessness — and we invite the entire diocese to join. Volunteer opportunities are available for people of all ages. E-mail Jennifer Nunes at jnunes@rcdos.ca to add your name to our volunteer list and receive future updates. We also invite everyone to set aside blankets, jackets and winter gear to help care for those who will seek shelter the Hall this winter. Monetary donations are always deeply appreciated. Donations may be made online at www.stmarysoutreach.com/donate , by e-transfer to smaoutreach@rcdos.ca or by cheque dropped off at St. Mary's parish.

Scripture Word Study: The Greek verb for "be anxious" which Paul uses in today's reading is ***merimnáō*** which literally means *to be divided and distracted*. This state is not healthy spiritually or physically as was pointed out during the geriatric assessment to which I accompanied my dad this week. Our brain has only so much "space" and multi-tasking (like living with constant worry and anxiety in the background) is not a good allocation our mind. Anxiety has always struck me as a more powerful word than distress [I miss the *embolism* (the prayer of the priest between the *Our Father* and *For the Kingdom…*) which used to be '*Deliver us Lord from all* ***anxiety***."] I guess the new word *distress* is more 'dramatic' in its feeling (in the Latin mass, the word *purturbatio* indicates thrown into confusion and agitation). My sense is that *disturbance can lead to anxiety* which is more an on-going condition that just wears away joy. Do you have any special Scriptural passage that you turn to or have memorized when anxiety threatens to overwhelm? I find such joy and spiritual grace in Psalm 139 and St. John's Passion.