



November 21, 2025
Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

To the Clergy and Faithful in the Diocese of Prince Albert

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

His Holiness Pope Leo XIV announced from Rome today that he has appointed me as the new Metropolitan Archbishop of Edmonton. I am deeply humbled by the Holy Father's call to serve in a cherished place where I spent 40 years of my life and 20 years of priesthood. I am surprised and honoured to receive this nomination and will try to embrace God's call with faith and joy in the Lord.

At the same time, I am truly saddened to leave the people of the Diocese of Prince Albert. You welcomed me with such kindness when I was ordained your Bishop on June 11, 2021, and it has been a privilege to come to know the different communities, parishes, and peoples who inhabit this land we share by Treaty. A lot has happened over the last four years, and it has been a gift of God to walk with you in faith, hope and love.

I feel that this new call comes as many initiatives in the Diocese are just beginning, but I suppose it is always like that in life. (Our Lady is the 'Undoer of Knots'; she can also help weave together the loose threads we leave undone!) You can be confident that there are many people of faith here and co-workers in the harvest who will continue to serve the needs of all and help foster the life and growth of the Church. Let us pray fervently that the Lord will send you a new Bishop as soon as possible.

As of today, I am the Administrator of the Diocese of Prince Albert. I will continue to serve in that capacity until my installation as Archbishop of Edmonton on January 23, 2026, at St. Joseph's Basilica. After my installation, the College of Consultors of the Diocese of Prince Albert will then elect a Diocesan Administrator from the Priests who will serve until a new Bishop has been named by the Holy Father.

I offer my sincere thanks to the Clergy, diocesan staff, religious Sisters, and all God's People for your witness and open hearts. I have learned so much from you all. There is a river that flows from Edmonton to Prince Albert. That will always be a sign to me of the connection between us and same grace of God that gives us life. The next few months may be a steep swim upstream for me. I ask for your prayers and promise to pray for you. *ēkosi. kinanāskomitin.*

Sincerely in Christ,

✠ Most Rev. Stephen A. Hero
Administrator of Prince Albert