

Roman Catholic Diocese of Prince Albert

Prince Albert DIOCESE de Prince Albert
Vocations Commission des Vocations



Go, and make disciples of all nations.
Allez! De toutes les nations faites des disciples.
Matthew 28:19

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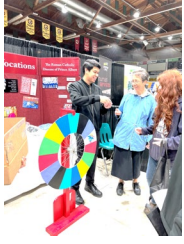
What it means to be installed as a Lector By Sedale "Dale" Rosillo

On November 19, 2023, Bishop Stephen celebrated Mass at St. Joseph Parish, where I was interning and installed me as a Lector. Being instituted into the ministry of lector is one of the Church's formal steps toward Holy Orders. This means the Church formally instituted me to proclaim the readings in the celebration of the Eucharist and other liturgies. But that does not mean I had not been a lector at Mass before I was instituted. I had read at Mass since I was in 5th grade. As an altar server who accompanied a priest when celebrating mass or even funeral liturgy in villages, I was trained to read during these celebrations due to the unavailability of parishioners.

However, being installed as a Lector in my journey as a seminarian is a unique experience. This experience bestowed on me a great privilege, not just being a reader but a bearer of God's word. Since my admission to the Candidacy for Holy Orders, I felt I had moved to another step, being a lector, by receiving God through his Sacred Scriptures. The lector is to become a channel of the Word so that people will receive God through the Sacred Scriptures. In the movie Spider-Man, Uncle Ben advises these words to young Peter Parker: "With great power comes great responsibility." This proverb popularized by the movie made me realize that to be a Lector is a great duty because when we read the scriptures, we bring life to the Word of God. It is not only reading the Word of God but embodying the Word.

The day I was installed, I received this behest from Bishop Stephen upon receiving the bible: "Take this book of Holy Scripture and be faithful in handing on the word of God, so that it may grow strong in the hearts of his people." The words in the scriptures remain as texts if not proclaimed. Yet, through our voice, with the help of sound, the text becomes present. The text requires a body to be present. Hence, the lector is an instrument of God to embody his word. The Word became Flesh (John 1:14) as it is written in St. John's prologue, and the church wants us to realize that the Word of God is a living word; by receiving the Word, the Word becomes flesh through proclamation. By proclamation, we listen; through listening, the word enters our minds and hearts, and thus, we become God's dwelling place. This is the great responsibility entrusted to me as a lector, and it is a challenge for me to embody the word and make it penetrate the minds and hearts of the faithful.





The Opening Doors to Tomorrow Career/Job Fair 2024

Saskatchewan Health Authority, Saskatchewan Polytechnic, Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Division, Prince Albert & District Community Futures and Prince Albert Catholic School Division are partnering again this year to host the annual OPENING DOORS TO TOMORROW CAREER & JOB FAIR! And again, the Prince Albert Diocese Vocations Commission will put in a booth. **SAVE THE DATE!! WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2024 – Art Hauser Centre, Prince Albert.**

**A Pilgrimage or a Holiday
by Fr. Jim Kaptein**

Years ago, I had the opportunity to visit the Holy Land. Our tour organizers had arranged some top-notch tour guides. On our first day the tour guide took us up the Mt of Olives and asked us, “Are you here as a: Tourist, Student or a Pilgrim?” The question took me a little off guard...because I hadn’t really thought of it. Then he proceeded to explain the difference. As a tourist you are only interested in seeing the sights and getting the right picture so you could show them to your friends. I just got back from Mexico, and I was definitely a tourist. I wanted to put my brain in neutral, lay on the beach, swim in the ocean, and go to the Mayan ruins. A student is there to learn, but the learning does not go very deep. Years ago, I went on a Cultural exchange to India, where I was immersed in a different culture. But aside from learning lots about India and developing a soft spot in my heart for the poor in developing countries, I did not change much. Students want to learn enough in the Holy Land to win at “Catholic Jeopardy.” A pilgrim is there to enter into the sacred space and incorporate what they see, hear, and learn, into their Spirituality, as their goal is to grow closer to Christ. I came back from the Holy Land with a whole new perspective on my faith.

The agenda of a holiday is different from a pilgrimage. At the heart of a holiday is a desire to: unwind relax and catch up on sleep. The very core of a pilgrimage is the desire to be with God—to know him more intimately, to grow in your relationship to him. It is a time to become introverted instead of extroverted, concerning yourself with self-reflection, not posting things to Facebook. Every vacation comes to an end, but the growth resulting from a pilgrimage influences you for the rest of your life. You could say the proof is in the pudding. If you simply return rested, and ready to meet the struggles of everyday life...you have been on a holiday. If you come back transformed, where our body, mind, soul and spirit have undergone a Transfiguration, and you will never be the same...you have been on a pilgrimage.

When someone goes to St. Laurent Shrine, they can go as a: Tourist, Student, or a Pilgrim. However, why they go, will determine the type of experience they have. If they are there only to take pictures to show their friends, they are merely being a tourist. If they come back knowing the history of the Shrine, they will have learned a lot, and would have been a good student. But if they open their heart to God, desiring to become one with him, they will probably go back time and time again, because like Peter at the Transfiguration, they will be so spellbound that they will not want the experience to end.



The Vocation Committee, along with several Clergy members, will celebrate another fun filled day at Prince Albert’s Street fair on June 15th, 2024. It is a wonderful day to spend downtown Prince Albert, interacting with the community and letting them know who their Vocation Committee members are. Looking forward to the 2024 Street Fair.



World Youth Day by Jennifer Brown

In the vibrant city of Lisbon, Portugal, World Youth Day 2023 brought together thousands of young Catholics from around the globe for a profound celebration of faith, community, and solidarity. Held from July 26th to July 31st, this monumental event marked a significant moment for the Catholic Church and the youth who gathered to partake in its festivities. The diocese of Prince Albert Saskatchewan had 30 participants partake. These participants were primarily from Prince Albert and surrounding areas with additional participants coming from as far away as Manitoba and Black Lake.

Under the theme "Mary arose and went with haste," inspired by the Gospel of Luke, the World Youth Day in Lisbon was a testament to the spirit of pilgrimage and the urgency to spread love, compassion, and hope in a world marked by challenges and uncertainties. The Pilgrims from Prince Albert first stopped to spend the week prior at Days in the Diocese in Angra with Father Vitor in his two parishes. Placed with kind and caring host families in the Azores was a blessing. We toured the island seeing all sorts of wonderful sites from beautiful churches to calderas and Hot Springs. As always in true Canadian fashion at the end of our week with Father Vitor, we presented him with a stole made of leather and beadwork.

From San Miguel to Lisbon, the week-long event was filled with a diverse range of activities, including prayer sessions, liturgies, catechesis, cultural performances, and moments of reflection. Young people from different backgrounds and cultures came together to share their experiences, deepen their faith, and forge lasting friendships.

One of the highlights for me personally was attending a session on the Shroud of Turin; where the scientist was also a religious priest - amazing! He spoke of the blood splatter and how from analyzing the way it would have been wrapped the three dimensional outline can be seen. To know the Lord suffered to that extreme for me is humbling and the greatest love story for humanity.

Throughout the event, Pope Francis delivered powerful messages of hope, emphasizing the importance of compassion, solidarity, and environmental stewardship. His presence served, and continues to, as a source of inspiration for the young pilgrims, encouraging them to become active agents of change in their communities and beyond.

Another memorable aspect of World Youth Day 2023 was the cultural exchange, where participants had the opportunity to showcase their talents and traditions through music, dance, and art. This multicultural celebration highlighted the richness and diversity of the Catholic faith, fostering a sense of unity amidst differences.

As the event drew to a close, participants gathered for the closing Mass celebrated by Pope Francis. The walk was hot and daunting; but together we pushed on to celebrate our arrival to the campsite. The dusty path before us was shared with a group of helpful Americans as we set in for the evening. In the morning, we renewed our commitment to live out their faith with joy and conviction, as a DJ playing priest woke us up to dance music. The atmosphere was one of excitement, gratitude and hope, as young Catholics returned to their homes inspired and energized to make a difference in the world.

World Youth Day 2023 in Lisbon, Portugal, was more than just a gathering of young Catholics; it was a transformative experience that strengthened their faith, deepened their sense of belonging to a global community, and ignited their passion for building a more just and compassionate world. As they dispersed back to their respective corners of the globe, the memories and lessons learned during this unforgettable week will continue to resonate in their hearts and minds for years to come.

World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life Celebration
February 4, 2024
By Sr. Evelyn Nedelec

In 1997 Pope John Paul II instituted a day of prayer for men and women in consecrated life. This celebration is attached to the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple on February 2nd. This year, in P.A., we celebrated the 28th World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life at Sacred Heart Cathedral on February 4th with a time of adoration, reflection and music. Our reflections were taken from Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation, *Rejoice and Be Glad*. In this document, he speaks about the call to holiness and sainthood for today's world.

We began with a Scripture on the Beatitudes. Then various members of the Vocation Commission read the reflections. Each one was followed by a song and a time of adoration. We were blessed to have Bishop Hero with us. He spoke to us on how the Beatitudes can guide us in leading a holy life. We hope this time of prayer inspired everyone to deepen their response to the call of holiness in their life.

We would like to extend our thanks to the readers, music ministry, and our Bishop as well as all who attended and joined us in praying for those in consecrated life. We ended with lunch and fellowship.

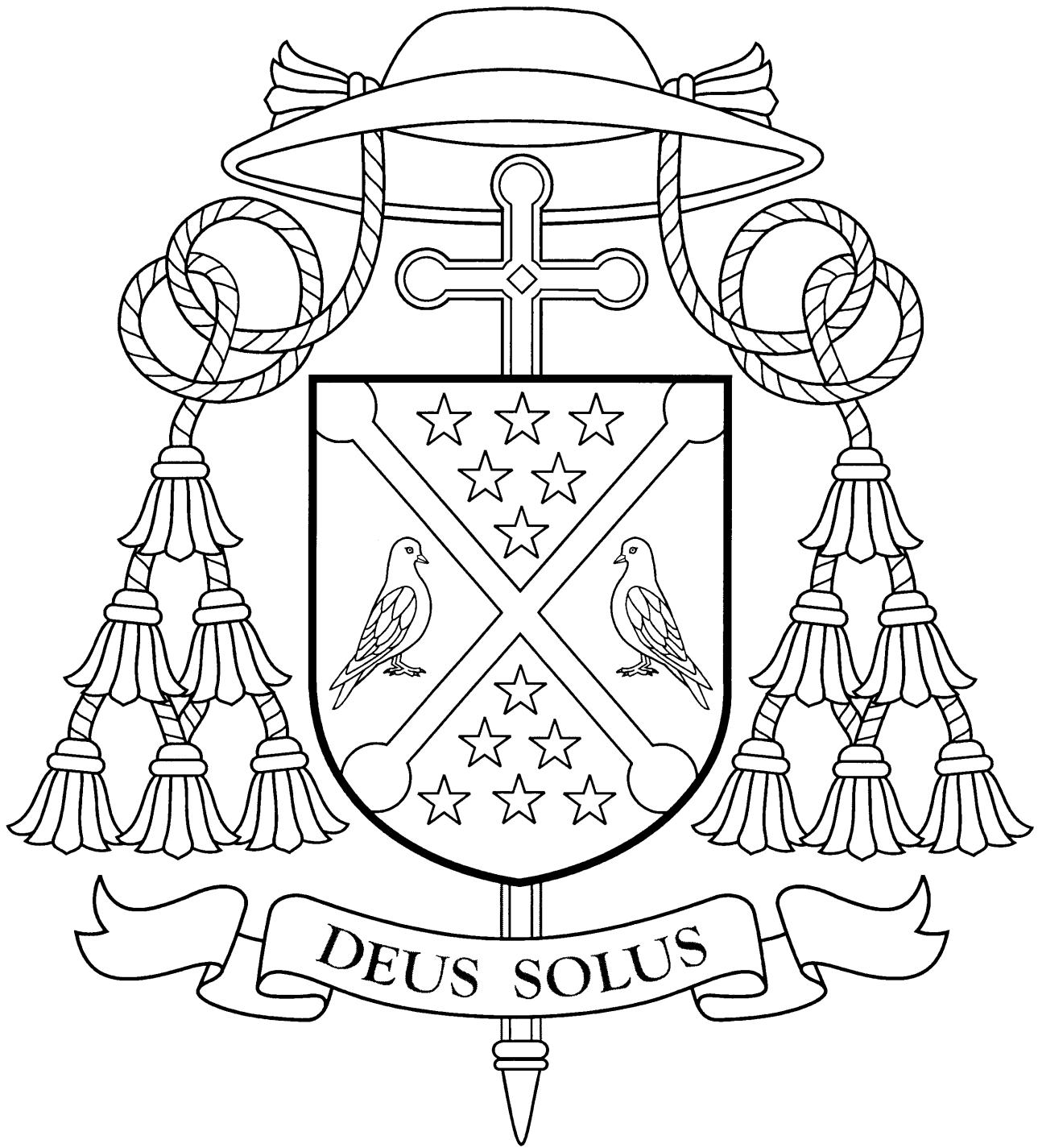


Did you know that the **4th Sunday of Easter is Good Shepherd Sunday or Vocations Sunday**, where we pray for the shepherds in our parishes that lead us and guide us in our spiritual lives. Jesus continues to guide us through our Bishop and priests; it is through them that we can hear the voice of the Good Shepherd himself. Let us continue to pray for the Good Shepherds in our parishes, and especially the chief shepherd of our diocese, Bishop Stephen Hero.

You are invited to colour these pages and use them in your family prayer corner to remember to pray for Bishop Hero. Your family can also compose a prayer that you will pray, and then you can send it to the diocese for the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, June 7th. Bishop Stephen's 3rd anniversary to the Episcopate is June 11, 2024. These prayers will be presented to Bishop Stephen as a spiritual bouquet on June 7th at the 7pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Prince Albert.







Description of the Coat of Arms: Most Rev. Stephen A. Hero

The shield is **black** which represents the finiteness of the created universe, from the dark soil of the earth to the vast reaches of outer space. It is the mystery and mortality that confronts every one of us in our life as humans.

A **gold Cross saltire** (or X-shaped Cross) cuts across the dark shield as it does the life of every Christian. The death and resurrection of Christ is the central saving event of human history and brings the life, glory, and salvation of God to us. The *saltire* shape of the Cross (as opposed to the Latin Cross upon which Christ died) shows that Christ's Cross takes its own particular form in the life of each disciple.

Bishop Hero's **patron Saints**, St. Stephen of Hungary and St. Andrew the Apostle, are both recalled by this Cross *saltire*. The Cross atop the famous crown of St. Stephen, with rounded spheres at the end of each arm, today still tilts to the side after the king's fall from his horse in battle. The *saltire* Cross is more typically linked to St. Andrew, the apostle who was "first called" by the Lord (Jn 1:40), and who, after preaching God's Word faithfully, was martyred on a Cross of this shape.

The **two turtledoves** in the right and left quadrants of the shield refer to **St. Joseph** who made this offering of the poor in the temple at Jerusalem forty days after the birth of Jesus (Luke 2:24). The use of **silver** or white for the doves represents Joseph's purity of faith, spiritual poverty, and loving obedience to God in this sacrifice as in his whole life. The doves also **face inward** toward the Cross. It is the loving sacrifice of Christ that fulfills every other. Disciples will find strength and meaning to carry their own Cross only by looking to Christ's. The reference to St. Joseph on the shield also recalls that Bishop Hero was born in the 'shadow' of St. Joseph's Oratory in Montréal and spent sixteen years of his priesthood (nine years as Rector) at St. Joseph Seminary in Edmonton.

The upper and lower quadrants of the shield hold a total of **twelve stars** which evoke the figure of the **Blessed Virgin Mary** and her assumption into heaven. The Church's Tradition identifies Our Lady as the "woman crowned with twelve stars" (Rev 12:1) and she is an image of the Church already in heaven. Mary is the perfect disciple of Christ and the mother of every Christian (Jn 19:27). After consenting to and participating in the mystery of Christ's Incarnation and Cross, Our Lady shares now in his glory in heaven to which we are also called. This field of gold stars on the shield shows the glory of God shining through every apparent darkness, the promise and hope of resurrection after earthly life.

St. Louis Marie de Montfort popularized a prayer called the "Little Crown of Our Lady," which consists mostly in offering **twelve Hail Marias** as a simple tribute of love to our Blessed Mother. The **twelve stars** on the shield can be taken also for these twelve Hail Marias of the Little Crown. Bishop Hero tries to practice this going "to Jesus through Mary" in his own life. Praying to and with Mary is the shield of every Christian.

Finally, the use of the **metals gold and silver** on the black shield to represent Christ and His Saints indicates that the glory of God and the life of grace are the only true riches of Christians. In the words of St. Peter: "I have no silver and gold, but I give you what I have; in the name of Jesus of Nazareth, walk." (Acts 3:6)

Description of the Bishop's Motto – Latin Words

Deus Solus (or God Alone)

This was the favourite saying of St. Louis Marie de Montfort, who appended it to most of his writings, and it also resembles the *solo Dios basta* of St. Teresa of Avila, the great Carmelite teacher of prayer.

Bishop Hero has taken it specifically from the Vulgate version of Psalm 85:10: "**For you are great and do wondrous things; you are God alone.**" It is the cry of faith that God must be at the center of our life in order to love ourselves, our neighbour, and the good things of the earth rightly, that is, in God. The perennial human temptation is to make oneself, something or someone else into a sort of false god.