



## ***Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon*** **OFFICE OF THE BISHOP**

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Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

The Diocese of Saskatoon has had a long history of missionary activity beyond our own local church.

In 1964, while attending a session of the Second Vatican Council, Bishop Klein received a request to send missionaries to northeastern Brazil – in response, a team of two nurses, two religious sisters and three priests was sent from the diocese of Saskatoon to the archdiocese of Maceio. For the past 46 years, our sister churches have both benefited from and been enriched by this gospel journey or *caminhada* together. The diocese of Saskatoon continues to actively support this mission today; our link with the archdiocese of Maceio remains especially strong with the presence in the Brazil mission of members of the Ursulines of Bruno and the Sisters of Mission Service and through the activities of the Brazil Mission Awareness Committee (BMAC).

Bishop Albert LeGatt initiated a diocesan wide Mission Discernment process in 2003. Two important outcomes arose from this process. First, the people of our diocese expressed a clear desire to remain in relationship with our sister/mission diocese in Brazil; and secondly, that a Diocesan Mission Office be formed which would work to promote, educate and support other missionary activity beyond our diocesan borders. Since its inception in December 2005, the Diocesan Mission Office (DMO) has worked to respond to its vision: “to help the people of the diocese to experience our call to mission beyond the local church as a community of people living and sharing our faith through presence and relationship.” As well as developing its own promotional video, “. . . and the Lord Said Go,” the DMO has supported people from the diocese in mission activity in Northern Canada, Tanzania, and Mexico.

The work of the Diocesan Mission Office is funded by an annual collection throughout the diocese on the Feast of Christ the King (November 21). This year, in addition to providing for its own financial requirements, the Diocesan Mission Office is making a special appeal for contributions to assist with the extraordinary needs of the people in our mission area in Brazil. This is in response to a request from the Archbishop of Maceio following the disastrous floods of June 20<sup>th</sup>. Our diocese has been asked to help fund an extensive project of the Archdiocese of Maceio to assist flood victims. The goal of the program, *Bem Vindo Bebe* or “Welcome Baby,” is to affirm the dignity of the expectant mothers who suffered from the devastation of the flood, by providing basic prenatal and postnatal care, which is currently lacking in the public health care system. Our diocese is committed to providing transportation to these mothers and their children from the outlying areas to the city of Maceio, where the services will be provided for them. See more details about the project in the Brazil Bulletin pages of the Fall 2010 *Diocesan Newsletter*, which will be available at the beginning of Advent.

I am increasingly conscious of the generosity of the people of the Diocese of Saskatoon in supporting the Brazil mission, missionary activity in Northern Canada, and other mission initiatives – some organized through the Diocese, others through particular parishes, and still others initiated by individuals who have heard and responded to the needs of others. In this we are attending to the Gospel imperative to love our neighbour, and to let our love be real and active, faithful to the Lord’s own witness and to the mission he has shared with us.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ Donald Bolen  
Bishop of Saskatoon

 In all things we are rooted in Christ,  
in His desire to bring God’s love to all peoples.