



NEWS ARCHIVE:

## Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon

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# Archbishop Albert LeGatt inaugurated Sept. 21 as shepherd of St. Boniface, Manitoba

By Kiply Lukan Yaworski  
Photos by Tim Yaworski

Archbishop Albert LeGatt knocked on the doors of Saint Boniface Cathedral Sept. 21, and was welcomed with joy and thanksgiving to his new archdiocesan home.

The crowd that filled both levels of the cathedral building burst into applause as rector Fr. Marcel Damphousse answered LeGatt's ceremonial knock at the start of the inauguration ceremony.

Retiring Archbishop Emilius Goulet, PPS, began the celebration, greeting all those in attendance. Special guests

included Archbishop Luigi Ventura, the Apostolic Nuncio to Canada, who invited archdiocesan

chancellor Rev. Léonce Aubin

to read the July

3 papal bull naming LeGatt as the eighth archbishop of Saint Boniface, Manitoba.



**Archbishop Albert LeGatt (centre) enters the cathedral building with Archbishop Emeritus Emilius Goulet (right), and the apapl Nuncio, Archbishop Luigi Ventura (back, l).**



**The new archbishop knocks on the door of St. Boniface Cathedral.**

Some 20 bishops from across Canada also attended the inauguration, including Archbishop James Weisgerber of Winnipeg, president of the Canadian Catholic Council of Bishops (CCCB). Priests, deacons and religious from the archdioceses of Saint Boniface and Winnipeg, as well as from the Ukrainian Catholic eparchy of Winnipeg, and the diocese of Saskatoon, were also in attendance, as were many friends, family members and colleagues of the new archbishop.

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Representatives of different levels of government, of the community at large, of other Christian denominations and other faiths also attended the 2.5-hour ceremony, conducted in both French and English, with prayers also offered in a number of other languages.

Apostolic Nuncio Ventura and Archbishop Goulet led LeGatt to the *cathedra*, the chair of the archbishop, a symbol of his teaching authority. Goulet then presented the new archbishop with Bishop Joseph Provencher's *crozier*, the stylized shepherd's staff symbolizing the archbishop's office. Provencher was the first bishop of the historic Saint Boniface diocese, which at one time included all of western Canada.



**Archbishop Albert LeGatt**

In an address to the new archbishop, the papal nuncio recalled Provencher's motto: *Pinquescent speciosa deserti*: "the meadows of the wilderness overflow" from Psalm 64. Recalling all those who worked to establish and live out Christian life in this land, Ventura said the faithful are still called to take the abundant and living waters of the gospel into the world today, to bring life and healing.

"Our contemporaries want to see what they see nowhere else, that is, the joy and hope that comes from being with the Risen Lord," Ventura said. "In this demanding task, you can count on the priests, deacons, religious, pastoral workers and lay faithful," he assured the new archbishop.

Ventura noted that LeGatt's own motto *Ut unum sint*: "that they may be one" from John 17:21 calls for a unity in which each one "offers his or her unique, invaluable and irreplaceable contribution." In all of this, the Lord has promised his "necessary and unwavering assistance," added Ventura, citing the Lord's promise "I am with you always," recorded in the gospel of Matthew, whose feast day was also celebrated on the day of the inauguration Sept. 21.

The new archbishop was then greeted and embraced by the archdiocese of Saint Boniface consultants, the dean of each of the seven pastoral zones, representatives of the archdiocese's permanent deacons, superiors of various religious orders and representatives of the laity.

During the homily for the Eucharistic celebration, LeGatt said that it is right and just to give God thanks and praise – calling forth the well-known message of the ritual dialogue that is part of the preface to the Eucharistic prayer.

LeGatt cited some of the many blessings for which the community was giving thanks: a new chapter in the life of the archdiocese of Saint Boniface, the faithful and loving service of Archbishop Goulet and all his predecessors, and the rich legacy of Christian faith and service in

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the archdiocese of Saint Boniface, the “mother church” of all western and northern Canada over the past 191 years.

“Giving thanks for the past, we also and just as much, give thanks for all who make up this Church now – the laity, religious, deacons and priests of



today, you the people of God in this time and in this place, called to proclaim the Kingdom of God and bring Christ’s name and Christ’s love to all,” said LeGatt. “Yes, it is right to give God thanks and praise for all things; this is what fills my heart tonight as I humbly take on the ministry of your bishop in the name of Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd and the one great High Priest.”

LeGatt acknowledged the legacy of the Francophone history, language and traditions of the archdiocese as a great asset, drawing applause when he said that he is committed to serving that Francophone reality as faithfully as his predecessors.

At the same time, LeGatt thanked God for all of the other threads that make up the unique fabric of the Church of Saint Boniface, including the English majority, the Métis and First Nations, and others who bring their rich traditions of culture and language to their celebration of the faith: Vietnamese, Spanish, Polish and Laotian.

“Finding in this diversity, called to communion, both a grace and a challenge,” LeGatt recalled the words of St. Paul to the Ephesians, in which the great apostle to the gentiles prays for “every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace” recognizing one faith, one baptism, one God and Father for all.

“Jesus Christ will guide us and mold us in his likeness and meld us as one, so that the gifts of all are equally respected in dignity and contribute to the common good and the spread of the gospel,” said LeGatt. “Our own unique spiritual journey in faith and in holiness, the sharing of our gifts and talents, the offering of lives joined together to the sacrifice of Christ is indispensable for the coming of the reign of God.”

LeGatt said he believes he was named archbishop of Saint Boniface for one reason alone: “to build up in all the marks of holiness and communion and evangelization” the people of God in the archdiocese of Saint Boniface, with the grace and the help of God.



“I commit myself to build up in dialogue and collaboration, in mutual respect and support, in mutual listening and effort, amongst all, lay people, religious, deacons and priests, this diocesan

family, so that all are welcome to share their gifts and share their faith,” he said.

“They will know we are Christians by our concrete love and efforts of justice and peace for all and with all other people of good will in our world,” LeGatt added. “And by that love and justice and peace, God the Father will be given all glory.”

At the conclusion of the Eucharistic celebration several archdiocesan representatives came forward to address the new archbishop.

Donald Goulet spoke on behalf of the laity, Sr. Cecile Fortier, superior of the Missionary Oblate sisters, spoke on behalf of religious, and Fr. Marcel Carriere spoke on behalf of the clergy.

“We are happy to have you as our pastor. We hope and pray that before long you feel at home among us and that you will soon forget your sadness at leaving Saskatoon,” said Donald Goulet.

“You will meet religious and consecrated persons who are profoundly concerned with the sufferings of our brothers and sisters throughout the world. We will need you to walk with us as we strive to promote justice and bring hope to those who no longer find meaning in the life of the Church,” said Fortier. “We the religious and consecrated persons of your archdiocese will support you with our prayers. You can count on our willingness to collaborate with you.”

Carriere recalled his days at the seminary with LeGatt. “A prayerful man, he was wise, he showed discernment, leadership and wisdom. He was a man who loved the church and was ready to give his life to serve Christ. Many priests and seminarians had already predicted that one day Albert would be a bishop,” Carriere said. “The priests, religious and deacons are happy to welcome you as our shepherd and be assured that you will have our cooperation, our prayers in serving faithfully the church of Saint Boniface.”

In closing, Archbishop LeGatt expressed gratitude to all those who attended, giving special thanks to representatives of other Christian denominations and other faiths for coming to pray with the Catholic community.

LeGatt also expressed his great joy at coming to his new role as shepherd of the archdiocese of Saint Boniface. “Prince Albert will always be home. Saskatoon will always be home. But now, Saint Boniface is my Church, in the universal Church, and I am so proud and glad.”

