

# Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon



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## DIOCESAN CELEBRATION JAN. 1, 2012



### Celebration New Year's Day

Archbishop Albert LeGatt of St. Boniface, MB; Bishop Murray Chatlain of MacKenzie-Fort Smith, NWT; Bishop Bryan Bayda of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon; Rev. David Tumback, cathedral rector; and Saskatoon Bishop Donald Bolen (*left to right*) participated in a New Year's Day celebration to mark the declaration of the new Cathedral of the Holy Family as the cathedral church for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon.

## Transition to new cathedral

By Kiply Lukan Yaworski

The new Cathedral of the Holy Family was officially declared the diocesan home for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon at a celebration on New Year's Day.

Archbishop Albert LeGatt of St. Boniface, Manitoba, was a special guest at the first diocesan celebration in the new building. During his time as bishop of Saskatoon, LeGatt initiated plans to construct the new cathedral and diocesan pastoral centre, in conjunction with a new church building for Holy Family parish in northeast Saskatoon.



LeGatt joined Saskatoon Bishop Donald Bolen, Ukrainian Catholic Bishop Bryan Bayda and Saskatoon-born Bishop Murray Chatlain of the Diocese of MacKenzie-Fort Smith in celebrating the liturgy, along with rector Rev. David Tumback, pastor of Holy Family; Rev. Bernard de Margerie; Rev. Michael Koch, diocesan Director of Christian Initiation; and Rev. Stefano Penna, Dean of Newman Theological College in Edmonton.

LeGatt and Bolen were also at St. Paul's Cathedral the evening before with Rev. Don Hamel, leading another diocesan celebration, expressing appreciation for that 100-year-old building's role as the diocesan cathedral since the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon was formed in 1933-34. Permission to designate St. Paul's as a Co-Cathedral has been received from Rome.

Tumback opened the Holy Family celebration Jan. 1 by reading a proclamation declaring that with the approval of the Holy See the new building is now the cathedral church of the diocese of Saskatoon.

"We seek God's blessings that this temple and house of prayer may be dedicated as a home for all those who seek to know God and to grow in relationship with his son, Jesus Christ," said the new cathedral rector.

"As a Holy Family we will strive to seek out the lost and bring gift of communion to all who desire to be nourished by word and sacrament. May this cathedral always represent the mercy and the love of God that continues to be shown forth each and every day," added Tumback.

A formal Dedication and Mass of Blessing for the cathedral will be held May 13, but the diocesan celebration on New Year's Day marks an important moment of transition, noted Saskatoon's bishop.

"It is easy to be overwhelmed by the number of things that we celebrate today," said Bolen, standing in front of the bishop's chair or "*cathedra*" in the main sanctuary of the new building -- a sign of its designation as diocesan cathedral.

"This is the feast of Mary the Mother of God, the World Day of Prayer for Peace, the beginning of the New Year, and a year filled with promise for us as diocese of Saskatoon," Bolen said. "And as of today this is to be known as the Cathedral of the Holy Family."

In his homily, LeGatt reflected on the concept of home, hearkening to Mary as the "home of Jesus Christ, the home of God."

"This is a place of beauty," LeGatt said of the new building, while emphasizing the difference between a house and a home. "This is a beautiful place to pray. I share your joy and your pride, and I just congratulate you on what you have accomplished: the creation of this beautiful place. But that is 'house.' Home is more," he said, describing home as a place of respect, of openness to others, of faithful love and life shared. "You are called to be the home of Jesus," he said.



#### **Cathedral celebration**

Fr. David Tumback opened the Jan. 1 celebration, which included Archbishop Albert LeGatt, of St. Boniface; Bishop Murray Chatlain of McKenzie-Fort Smith; Bishop Bryan Bayda of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon; and Saskatoon Bishop Don Bolen.

A cathedral is often described as being a model for the diocese in its celebration of the liturgy, he noted. “But you are also called to be a model for the diocese in a special way of what it means to be the home of Jesus. So the immigrant can come through that door and say ‘here is where Jesus Christ lives’; so that the prisoner who has just got out of jail and is looking for a job, and is looking for someone to trust him, can come in through those doors and say ‘here I find Jesus Christ’; so that in all the ways that you catechize your children, grow in faith as adults, see to the sick, and reach out in justice and peace and solidarity – in all of that, people will say – ‘this is the home of God.’”

During the celebration, Tumback announced that the new cathedral hall will be named “Bishop LeGatt Hall” in recognition of the former Saskatoon bishop’s “wise and courageous vision” to build the cathedral.

Following the celebration of the Eucharist, Bishop Bolen blessed the Queen of Peace side chapel, which will be used for smaller celebrations in the new cathedral building. The altar, ambo and presider’s chair installed in the chapel are from Saskatoon’s St. Pius X Seminary, which closed in the early 1990s.

A “Bishops’ Levee” hosted by the Knights of Columbus followed later in the afternoon, with hundreds visiting the new building to greet the bishops and tour the worship space.

Reflecting on the event, LeGatt said it was a powerful moment to walk into the building and see how the planning he participated in at the beginning of the construction process have materialized into a beautiful space of gathering. “I was struck by how this has come about through the work and the generosity of so many people, in fundraising, organizing, and building.”

After parish and diocesan fund-raising campaigns, construction on the new Cathedral of the Holy Family on Nelson Road and Attridge Drive began in the fall of 2009. It will serve as a parish home for the growing Holy Family congregation as well as the diocesan cathedral and Catholic Pastoral Centre.

Some 6,000-square metres in area, the building includes parish and diocesan offices, diocesan archives, a resource library, a hall, meeting areas and a pastor’s residence.

The worship space seats some 1,200, with the ability to open the back to overflow seating for another 1,000 people when needed – as happened during an evening Christmas Eve celebration this year.

The spire of the building is topped by a cross reaching some 53.8 metres into the sky. “Lux Gloria” solar stained glass artwork designed by Canadian artist Sarah Hall is installed on the spire. Hall also designed the five interior non-solar stained glass windows that circle the sanctuary, entitled “Creation,” “Covenant,” “Incarnation,” “Resurrection,” and “Glory.”

**“You are  
called to be the  
home of Jesus”**

*- Archbishop  
Albert Le Gatt*

