



January 14, 2026

Farewell Letter to the Diocese

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

May the pure love of Christ reign in your hearts!

The day of my installation as Archbishop of Edmonton is quickly approaching. Since the Holy Father's appointment of me to that See announced on November 21, 2025, I have been acting as the diocesan administrator of Prince Albert. My official duties here will end on January 23 when I am installed in Edmonton.

The last two months have passed by very quickly. It has been a time of rapid transition: packing, moving, making plans, and saying goodbye. It has also been a time of rich experience. I was so blessed to be able to accompany the pilgrims from our Diocese to Rome in December for the Jubilee. During that pilgrimage, I was able to walk closely with people from many of our parishes but also to take with me in my heart all the people who could not join us in person. I prayed for you and your intentions every day and as I walked through the holy doors of the great Roman basilicas.

For me it was a beautiful spiritual capstone to my time as your Bishop. We have been on a journey together for the past four and a half years, listening to God in the Holy Spirit and to one another and trying to glorify God through loving service. I hope that I have helped in some small way to announce the Gospel and lead our people to a deeper encounter with Christ who is always the open door to life in God.

This new year will bring many challenges to you and me. Continue to trust in the goodness of God whose plans for us are always the best. Please pray for one another and the man that the Lord is going to send you as your new shepherd in Christ.

Thank you for the joyful Mass of farewell last Friday at Sacred Heart Cathedral. I was overwhelmed by your presence and by the many cards, gifts, and assurances of prayer. You can be sure that I will pray for you each day and that we will remain deeply united in the Lord who makes us one. Saint Marie Rivier taught her Sisters of the Presentation to pray: *Vierge Sainte, gardez votre maison* (Holy Virgin, guard your house). May Our Lady of Lourdes, who is honoured so profoundly at the shrine at Saint Laurent, always guard this Diocese – this house – she loves so much!

Sincerely in the Lord,

† Stephen A. Hero

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