



OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

February 19, 2026

Dear Brother Priests, Deacons, and Pastoral Leaders,

The Parish Pastoral Priorities are the fruit of the important work that began under the leadership of Archbishop Smith. He invited our Archdiocese to prayerfully discern how we are called to grow as a missionary Church in Formation for Eucharistic Worship, Formation for Confident Witness, and Formation for Marriage and family. I am deeply grateful for the foundation he laid and for the generosity with which parishes embraced this call.

Now, as the new Archbishop of Edmonton, I would like to affirm clearly that I am committed to these Parish Pastoral Priorities and ask that this work in our parishes continue. Together, we carry forward what we have begun, trusting that the Holy Spirit who has guided us thus far will continue to lead us.

As you know, our pastoral priorities are firmly grounded in the wider synodal journey of the Church, which calls us *“to expand possibilities for participation and for the exercise of differentiated co-responsibility by all the Baptised”* (FD, no. 36).

Through recent workshops, parishes reflected on:

- **Where have we been?** — reviewing the fruits and learnings of Year 1.
- **Where are we now?** — identifying strengths, challenges, and opportunities.
- **Where are we going?** — discerning three clear and spiritually grounded goals, in alignment with the Pastoral Priorities, for the coming year.

This is ecclesial discernment — listening together for the voice of the Spirit and responding with shared responsibility. Each parish was asked to name a **Pastoral Priorities Chair** and a **Synod Champion** to help animate this work locally, fostering participation and dialogue in keeping with the Synod’s vision

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I also encourage every parish to complete the *Looking Back on Year 1* reflection sheet. This worksheet gives each parish the opportunity to share your single proudest moment or achievement. Celebrating these fruits not only gives thanks for what the Lord has accomplished among us, but also strengthens our unity and allows us to learn from one another's faithfulness and creativity.

Therefore, I ask that by **April 30<sup>th</sup>** each parish will have completed and submitted the following to Eugenia ([Eugenia.Pagnotta-Kowalczyk@caedm.ca](mailto:Eugenia.Pagnotta-Kowalczyk@caedm.ca)).

- Pastoral Priorities Plan for year two
- Pastoral Priorities: Looking Back on Year One reflection sheet
- Name and Contact of each Parish's Pastoral Priorities Chair
- Name and Contact information of each parish's Synod Champion

Thank you for your leadership, your collaboration, and your commitment to this shared mission. Be assured of my prayers for you and your parish communities as we continue this work together.

With gratitude and blessing,



✠Stephen A. Hero  
Archbishop of Edmonton