



OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

September 4, 2026

William & Carla Smiley
Edmonton, AB

Dear William and Carla,

Thank you for your email of 1 September 2026, introducing me to your work with the Encounter School of Ministry at Holy Trinity Parish and requesting a letter of support from me for the programme's continuation in the Archdiocese of Edmonton. I am happy to provide you with such a letter, building on the endorsement of my predecessor and acknowledging that the Encounter School of Ministry has played an important role in our archdiocese since 2022.

The Encounter School of Ministry provides an excellent discipleship programme rooted in our Catholic Tradition, encouraging participation in the ministry of evangelisation and bringing people into an encounter with Jesus Christ. Through deepening their awareness of the gifts of the Holy Spirit present and active in their lives, students of the Encounter School are formed for ministry and outreach as temples of the Holy Spirit.

This ministry aligns very well with one of the Archdiocese's discerned pastoral priorities: forming a community of witnesses who confidently proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ within their families, vocations, professions, and communities. Being a disciple and living in accordance with our baptismal identity and dignity means allowing the Lord to guide and direct every aspect of our lives. I am therefore happy to recommend the Encounter School of Ministry as a place where such formation can take place within the Archdiocese of Edmonton.

Thank you for your personal leadership of this ministry in our Archdiocese. Please be assured of my prayers for you and those involved in this ministry of evangelization.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+ Stephen A. Hero

✠ Most Rev. Stephen A. Hero
Archbishop of Edmonton