



Catholic Diocese of Victoria

Office of the Bishop

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September 9, 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is with joy and thanksgiving that I announce the promulgation of our new Diocesan Pastoral Plan entitled:

Claiming the Past with Gratitude
Living the Present with Enthusiasm
Looking to the Future with Hope.

We have witnessed a year-long planning effort by the People of God in order to discern the future mission and life of our local Church. The Diocesan Pastoral Plan is the result of much prayer, research, feedback and reflection. From this discernment, six Core Diocesan Pastoral Priorities have emerged which you will find in my Pastoral Letter on the Diocesan Pastoral Plan, 2010-2015, available for you after all of the Masses. You will also find an Executive Summary of the detailed Report, produced by the Diocesan Pastoral Planning Committee, in the *Diocesan Messenger*. Limited copies of the Report will be available to each parish for pastoral planning purposes and the Report, in its entirety, is available on the diocesan website at www.rcdvictoria.org.

In the Gospel for this Sunday, we learn how the Lord never ceases to follow us and walk with us on our life's journey. We learn how he seeks and calls us to himself as the Father did for his Prodigal Son in today's Gospel. This reality connects very well with the motif of the Emmaus Journey that I have chosen for my Pastoral Letter. Christ is at work, even today, and is walking with us on our journey.

The new Diocesan Pastoral Plan will give us all an opportunity, as a community of Faith, to begin anew in Christ – to start afresh with new and renewed pastoral endeavours. It is my hope that each parish community will see a gradual unfolding of the Priorities, Actions and Suggestions motivated by our Pastoral Plan.

One of the recommendations which has come to us through our Pastoral Planning Process is the need for an Annual Financial Appeal. This would enable the Diocese to enact its Pastoral Plan and ensure a sound foundation for future growth. We have begun the planning for such an Appeal this Fall.

I am deeply appreciative to the members of our Pastoral Planning Committee, Mrs. Moira King, Coordinator, the staff at the Pastoral Centre, and the many parishioners who participated in the process.

Brothers and Sisters, as we enact our Pastoral Plan at the Diocesan and Parish levels, let us together: Claim the Past with Gratitude, Live the Present with Enthusiasm and Look to the Future with Hope.

Yours in Christ,

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Most Reverend Richard Gagnon
Bishop of Victoria