



Archbishop Murray Chatlain
Apostolic Administrator
Archdiocese of Keewatin-Le Pas
P. O. Box 270, The Pas, MB R9A 1K4
chancery@keepas.ca
www.archdioceseofkeewatinlepas.ca

“In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” Acts 20:35

November 1, 2025

Dear Friend in Christ,

This past year has been a year filled with many challenges for the Archdiocese of Keewatin-Le Pas. On April 4, 2025, I was installed as the Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Winnipeg. While this presents new opportunities for me, it's been an adjustment for the Archdiocese of Keewatin-Le Pas as we await the appointment of a new Bishop. Until then, I'm serving as Apostolic Administrator for Keewatin-Le Pas. Although this “Bush Bishop” now ministers in a more urban area, I remain deeply aware of the challenges in our Northern missions. I urge you to still remember the Archdiocese of Keewatin-Le Pas as it continues to minister to some of the most isolated parishes in northern Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

The dry, hot summer of 2025 will not soon be forgotten by residents of northern Manitoba and Saskatchewan. It was one of the most stressful summers on record as drought and wildfire conditions combined to create repeated states of emergency and long-term evacuations for many of our people. Some of our areas were evacuated more than once! Coping with smoke, poor air quality and wildfire uncertainty was a difficult and anxious struggle for many – especially children and young people, the elderly and infirm. Although our northern winters are harsh, cold weather does bring a welcome reprieve from fires and smoke. I always look forward to winter for snowmobiling and hockey but now there's another reason too: no fires!

I want you to know that there is much to be grateful for in the Archdiocese of Keewatin-Le Pas. We have 15 Priests, one Deacon, three Religious Sisters and two Youth Ministry Coordinators serving in our 50 parishes and neighboring areas. We also have dedicated and experienced Lay Leaders who lead Sunday and funeral services in their home communities when a priest is not available. And believe me, they work hard to keep expenses as low as possible! But despite their – and our – best efforts, small communities cannot cover all their costs for missionary travel, food and the associated expenses of keeping a mission church open and its ministries available. Sadly, we did run a slight deficit last year; this year looks to be the same. Your support will allow us to have people serving in these communities and will get us to where God asks us to be.



Here are our 15 priests at the 2025 Priests' Retreat, with Archbishop Emeritus Sylvain Lavoie, OMI and our Guest Speaker, Archbishop Emeritus Richard Gagnon.

We are blessed that three RVM (Religious of the Virgin Mary Sisters) minister in and are an integral part of our Archdiocese. Sister Bing, Sister Nancy and Sister Astin have spent countless hours travelling near and far between The Pas and mission communities to lead, guide and spearhead retreats, workshops, and sacramental preparation programs. They bring Holy Communion to the sick and elderly, and selflessly visit homebound in each community. In fact, they chose to remain with the people in one of our mission communities – even while the waterlines in their house froze over during the winter months! They continually put others needs before their own. They truly have a missionary spirit and feel called to serve in the North. Sr. Rosabel Sare, RVM (District Superior) and Mother Rosabella Gallo, RVM (Superior General) recently visited Sr. Bing, Sr. Nancy and Sr. Astin in The Pas and were humbled by the missionary life that these three sisters have chosen to live among people of the North. Sisters Bing, Nancy and Astin are just three of our missionaries who benefit from your support.



Sr. Rosabel Sare, RVM Sr. Astin Sose, RVM Mother Rosabella Gallo, RVM Sr. Bing Ferrandiz, RVM Sr. Nancy Abarrientos, RVM



Anna Zoll and Bella Mannarath

Bella Mannarath recently joined Anna Zoll as part of our Youth Ministry Team. Together they offer a focus on spiritual enrichment for youth throughout our Archdiocese. Since April 2025, our Youth Ministry Team has made 30 community visits by car, train or plane; around 25,000 kms so far this year have been by car alone! Anna and Bella provide programs in community parishes and schools for tots in kindergarten right through to teens in high school. Their main goal is to build relationships with young people so that they can share their lives and faith and begin to walk together. It's a life-giving and vital ministry because – thanks to support from friends such as you – they can work with children and youth right in their own communities.



Every September, lay leaders, priests, sisters and archdiocesan staff gather for a few days at our Annual Diocesan Study Days in The Pas. This year's theme was "Pilgrims of Hope" and we were honored that Fr. Michael Fahlman, Chancellor of the Prince Albert Diocese, was a guest speaker. We spend this time together to renew and strengthen our spirituality and prayer life, and to discuss diocesan issues that affect the people of our mission areas. Supporting lay leaders is vital to our ongoing ministerial presence across the North. With so many of our priests responsible for up to five parishes, lay leaders such as those shown above, are responsible for daily pastoral care in their communities. Thank you for remembering their needs and those of the people in their communities.

Vehicles and Travel costs continue to be a huge part of our budget. As our Archdiocese reaches across northern Saskatchewan and Manitoba and covers over 725,000 sq. kms, travel is demanding. Eleven of our mission communities have no all-season roads; even today, these communities continue to be fly-in only. When travel by vehicle is possible, driving is a challenge throughout the Archdiocese. Most roads are gravel; many areas do not have cell-phone service and gas stations are few and far between many of our missions. Many of our vehicles have over 200,000 kms on them and we are having to replace them earlier than expected due to the wear and tear they endure on our roads. Already this year, we have had to replace three vehicles and anticipate having to do the same again next year. Our vehicle and maintenance costs so far this year have soared to over \$158,000.00! It's a real concern, but we need our missionaries safe on isolated wintry roads and throughout the year. Thankfully, your gift helps make their travel and pastoral visits possible at Christmas and in the months ahead.

Your support makes such a difference in the lives of so many across Canada's North. Your dedication last year helped raise \$318,080 to support the mission ministries of our Archdiocese. Thank you! Our goal this year is \$350,000. Please help us to reach this important goal.

Thank you for supporting our mission parishes through your prayers and generous commitment to their ministerial needs. We are thankful for whatever gift you feel called to give. Please be assured of my prayers and gratitude for your care.

May God bless you and all your family this Christmas and throughout the New Year,

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Apostolic Administrator
Archdiocese of Keewatin-Le Pas

PS: Your donation - in any amount - will make a lasting difference to so many people throughout our northern Canadian Archdiocese of Keewatin-Le Pas. If you are able to make pre-authorized automatic donations, please check that box on the below form.

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I hereby authorize the R. C. Episcopal Corporation of Keewatin (The Archdiocese of Keewatin-Le Pas) to withdraw funds as indicated above from my bank account on the 18th day of each month.

(Please sign this form and enclose a void cheque for bank information).

Please send e-transfers to finance@keepas.ca (E-transfer Question: What is the Appeal? E-transfer Answer: BAA2025)

If you have a PayPal account, and would like to make a donation through PayPal, please scan the PayPal QR Code.

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Address: _____

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Please return the bottom portion of this form (and financial gift) to: Archdiocese of Keewatin-Le Pas, P.O. Box 270, The Pas, MB R9A 1K4

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