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PASTORAL LETTER TO THE CLERGY, RELIGIOUS SISTERS, DEACON AND LAY LEADERS:

FEBRUARY 26, 2026

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

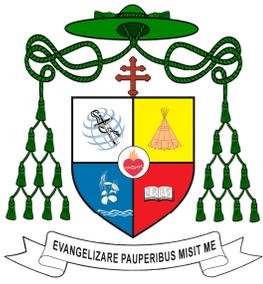
It has been just a month since that marvelous day that many of us gathered in the cathedral to celebrate my episcopal ordination as the 7th Archbishop of our beloved Archdiocese of Keewatin-Le Pas. Certainly, that event has radically changed my life, and in turn, the lives of all of us.

While adjusting to the rhythm of now governing the Archdiocese in which I had served as a missionary Oblate for close to 8 years, I feel a strong urging in my heart to share with you my vision of how we as one faith family can journey together into a stronger faith in God, a greater love for each other, and more effectively become the missionary disciples our church is calling us to be. While I am somewhat familiar with the Archdiocese, there are many communities that I have not yet visited and that will be my priority as a new Archbishop. As much as possible, I want to meet and get to know each one of you and the people.

At the same time, I would like to share with you my fledgling vision of what shape the mutual journey of faith we are undertaking together might be. This journey can be compared to driving a car. Every vehicle has two rearview mirrors. Glancing at those mirrors as we drive informs us of what is happening behind us, freeing us to move forward with greater ease and freedom.

Our Archdiocese has a history from which we can learn much. As the 7th Archbishop, I want to highlight one specific reality – the example of Ovide Charlebois, the first Archbishop. Our records tell us that on his missionary journeys, Bishop Charlebois visited 14 missions and posts, travelled thousands of miles by foot, canoe, wagon, snowshoe, dogsled, and train to minister to the Métis and other Indigenous peoples. He would give weeklong missions, and taught Cree in the residential school. A carpenter, he built the cathedral, and the first bishop's residence, which is still standing. He was declared venerable in November 2019 by Pope Francis. May his spirit be with us as we strive to continue his legacy.

While moving forward with the new evangelization in its agents, methods and ardor, I want us to build on the foundation stones provided by the Returning to Our Roots process, which involved four themes taken from Acts 2:42 (The Eucharist, Fellowship, Prayer and Scripture).



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Our goal would be to dig deeper into this process, exploring one theme a year for the next four years, starting with catechesis on the Eucharist. As an Archdiocesan team, we will search out and provide resource materials. As discussed in a meeting last week, we have already ordered the book called, "**Why go to Church?**" which will be given to all our clergy as a gift from the Archdiocese. Parishes would then utilise and implement the resources provided, as well as being free to search out and use local resources. Workshops, seminars, talks, guest speakers, small group sharing can all be part of the mix.

As part of this process, I would strongly urge all families to make one night of the week a family night, focused on the theme for that year. This first year, our aim would be to deepen our understanding of and foster greater appreciation for the Eucharist and instill a greater love for the Eucharist.

My hope as your new Archbishop would also be to move towards establishing a deaconate program for anyone who would like to serve the faith community in a more liturgical and formal manner.

In all of this, we would be living out my coat of arms and my motto (the Word of God gathers us into community centered on the Eucharist and sends us out to evangelize the poor).

May God bless us all as we set out together on this journey of faith, hope and love.

Archbishop Susai Jesu, OMI