



Rome, Italy
September 3, 2026

Dear Friends in Christ,

Since arriving in the Diocese following my appointment as your bishop, the warmth of your welcome has left a lasting impression. Messages and cards have arrived steadily, joyful conversations have taken place, and encouragement has come through simple expressions of kindness. Several parishes sent beautiful spiritual bouquets, and others have been praying quietly for me and for our Diocese. Please know how much your prayerful support means to me.

Our celebration of the episcopal ordination on August 22 was a particularly joyful moment. I am grateful to everyone who came to Sacred Heart Cathedral, to those who travelled from parishes and communities across the Diocese, and to those who joined us virtually from a distance. Special thanks belong to so many people for the extraordinary work of preparing the liturgies and decor, welcoming our guests, providing warm hospitality – including plenty of good food – sharing their music and voices, and attending to countless details behind the scenes. It was a beautiful celebration of faith and a wonderful expression of the life of our Diocese.

What stays with me most, though, is the spirit of that day. A genuine sense of joy, friendship, faith and hope was evident throughout. While I was the one being ordained, the celebration belonged to all of us. It marked not only the beginning of my ministry as bishop, but also the beginning of a new chapter in the life we share as the Church of Prince Albert.

I look forward to travelling throughout the Diocese, celebrating and praying with you, listening to your stories, learning about your communities, and coming to know more fully the gifts and challenges that are part of our life together. This part of God's Church has been entrusted to all of us, and we will discern together where God is leading us and how we can best serve the people and communities entrusted to our care.

This letter comes to you from Rome, where I am participating in the formation sessions for new bishops, along with Archbishop Susai from Keewatin-Le Pas. Nearly 150 bishops from around the world are gathered here; just yesterday evening I met bishops from Mexico, Brazil, Austria, Germany, Slovenia, Italy and India. It is a wonderful reminder of the richness and universality of the Church, and of the many different communities we each carry with us.

On September 10, we will have an audience with Pope Leo. When I meet him, I will assure him of the prayers of the people of the Diocese of Prince Albert and ask him to pray for us as well. In a very real way, then, I carry all of you with me here in Rome.

While it is good to be here in Rome, I am excited to return home and continue the work we have begun together. I look forward to the years ahead – to learning from one another, praying together, and sharing in the ministry Christ has entrusted to us in the Diocese of Prince Albert.

In Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Thorson", preceded by a small cross symbol.

+Ken Thorson, OMI
Bishop of Prince Albert