

Farewell to Bishop Luc

Good Evening.

While it is difficult to capture the impact of ten years into so few minutes, on behalf of the parishioners of the Diocese of St. Paul, I would like to thank you, Bishop Luc, for all that you have done and all that that you have been.

You have been our teacher – through the restoration of the Order of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation, the establishment of the Permanent Diaconate and through your various Pastoral Letters, you have challenged us to grow into a deeper understanding of the implications and applications of the teachings of the Church.

You have been our leader – encouraging Catholic Education, Youth Ministry, Prayer for Christian Unity, and Faith Formation activities. Your vision of an active, fully alive Church has inspired us to become more involved - to reach beyond our personal perspective.

You have encouraged us to always learn more – events such as the Diocesan Assemblies, Catholic Bible Days and the Emmaus program have given us opportunities to grow in knowledge, in stewardship, and in faith.

You have always made us feel welcome and worthy – delivering homilies from the centre aisle, visiting our schools, accompanying our young people to World Youth Days, participating in the functions of CWL, Femmes Chretiens and the Knights of Columbus. We appreciate the time you spent working beside us -helping to decorate the Cathedral for Holy Week, for example – and we are grateful for your many invitations to work beside you – planning celebrations, acting on committees, serving at Liturgy. It meant a lot that you asked for our ideas and suggestions and that you were patient with our questions and our concerns.

Your sense of humour and the personal examples included in your homilies helped us to understand the underlying significance of scripture and of liturgy. Who among us will ever forget the lesson of the red bicycle? And...how could we not appreciate the experience of Baptism while being blessed with your bucket and your bouquet of branches at the Easter Vigil?

We appreciate your efforts to provide us with ongoing guidance and assistance – establishing an Office of Pastoral Services and a Liturgy Office to give us protocols to

improve our Liturgical celebrations and to provide training for the various ministries within the Diocese.

Bishop Luc, you have been a model of Christian integrity – taking some strong moral and social positions and standing by those positions for the good of all God’s people.

You have also served as a model of Christian fortitude – joyfully and faithfully persevering in your ministry in spite of some very difficult personal challenges.

For ten years you have gifted us with your wisdom, your leadership, your compassion and your prayers. You moved us forward – albeit sometimes “kicking and screaming” – into a more dynamic, more progressive Church.

You have been our Shepherd and you have been our friend. We will miss you. We pray that God will continue to uphold you as you continue your journey of service to His people.

On behalf of the parishioners of the Diocese of St. Paul....Bishop Luc...

Merci Beaucoup...Salamat po...Dyakuyu...Hi Hi...Thank-you.

Roxanne Ringuette - March 16, 2012

