

HOLY FAMILIES AND MARRIAGES
A Christmas Message from the Archbishop

Dear faithful of the archdiocese,

Christmas is a time for families to get together, to visit, to catch up with friends and relatives.

The Nativity scene that we will contemplate this Christmas is all about a couple, the birth of a child, the creation of a family (The Holy Family), and family life.

As basic as marriage and family life is to our lives, our modern world doesn't seem to understand and daily presents us with challenges that threaten to undermine the role and health of marriage, family life and indeed even our society.

The northern bishops who gathered at the plenary of the Canadian bishops this year at Cornwall shared their concerns about marriage and family life and decided to put together a process that would help marriages and families cope with the pressures that society puts on them.

To do this, we need your help. As pastors, pastoral workers and people (youth, adults and elders) working together, I am inviting you to send to us all and any suggestions you may have to strengthen marriage and family life that have worked for you in your marriages and families.

We want to surface what is working already, build on that and add to it as a way of creating something that is truly northern and suited to our cultural and faith situation, rather than rely on something that is produced in the south.

Hopefully, this will not be seen as just another task to be accomplished, but as a mission to be joyfully lived. We hope you can do this done informally as well as more formally, over this Christmas season and in your gatherings to feast, share, recreate, visit and worship.

Above all, may this activity help us all celebrate the awesome birth of our Creator God and Higher Power into a human family here on earth as a little child who is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace.

Peace and blessings,

+ Sylvain Lavoie OMI
Archbishop of Keewatin-The Pas