



## Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Regina

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June 1, 2023

Dear benefactors to the South Saskatchewan Community Foundation,

I am writing to you today regarding a project close to my heart: the establishment of an endowment fund for the Roman Catholic Co-Cathedral in Gravelbourg, which was my home parish for ten years of my youth and adolescence.

The Our Lady of the Assumption Co-Cathedral served as the Cathedral for the Diocese of Gravelbourg from 1930 to 1999. When the Diocese was suppressed, it was recognized as the Co-Cathedral of the Archdiocese of Regina. It was declared a National Historic Site in 1995. Built shortly after Holy Rosary Cathedral in Regina, it was designed by the same architect, J.E. Fortin, but built (1918-1919) at a cost that was over double the cost of the Cathedral in Regina. Its stunning architecture and extraordinary and expansive murals painted by Monsignor Charles Maillard make it one of the most beautiful churches in Canada. It has justly been described as a “jewel of the prairies.”

The local parish community in Gravelbourg has done an exceptional job of keeping up the building. A group of dedicated parishioners has now undertaken to ensure the long-term viability of this historic and venerable church by establishing an endowment fund through the South Saskatchewan Community Foundation (SSCF). The objective is to raise one million dollars. The interest generated by this fund will mitigate any cost associated with the preservation of the building, its extraordinary art and this iconic national historical site.

The Archdiocese of Regina wholeheartedly endorses and supports this endeavour, and is grateful for any contributions towards it. A onetime donation or over a number of years is one way of giving but SSCF can accept and facilitate many types of gifts beyond cash like securities, mutual funds, property, land, insurance policies or leaving a gift through a Will.

Thanks to the South Saskatchewan Community Foundation for partnering in this worthy initiative. A copy of a pamphlet with more information is available at <https://sscf.ca/gravelbourg-co-cathedral-preservation-fund/>. For further information about the Co-Cathedral and its endowment fund, and to discuss the possibility of contributing to this worthy and noble effort, please contact SSCF by email at

[finance@sscf.ca](mailto:finance@sscf.ca) or call 306-751-4756. If you wish to speak to a local director of the fund in Gravelbourg contact the office at 306-648-3322 from 9 to 12, Monday to Friday or by email at [ourlady.gravelbourg@sasktel.net](mailto:ourlady.gravelbourg@sasktel.net)

Thank you for your kind consideration of this request.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Bolen", with a small cross symbol to the left of the first letter.

Don Bolen

Archbishop of Regina