

CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF SASKATCHEWAN



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St. Gregory the Great

Guidelines re: Catholic Education & Formation Colleges & Institutes

We, the Catholic Bishops of Saskatchewan, hereby establish these norms and directives in relation to all Catholic institutes of higher learning and formation, including universities and colleges; learning institutes; formation programs addressing intellectual, pastoral, spiritual and/or human formation. We do so in a time when there is increasing interest with establishing such initiatives and programs of formation – building on a strong history of activity among our Catholic dioceses and eparchies in western Canada.

To assist in providing clarity and nuance, we will reference the resource developed by the Cardinal Newman Society, titled: “Assessing Catholic Identity: A Handbook for Catholic College and University Leaders.” Although this resource specifically references Catholic colleges and universities, its scope and discussion of the universal and particular norms is also applicable to the smaller “institutes of formation” that are a part of our context in western Canada.

A general overview of this resource guide addresses the following features:

1. The institution’s Catholic identity as reflected in its Mission Statement, Governing Documents & Statutes, and Policy and Programs outline.
2. Institutional Commitment regarding relationship with Diocesan Bishop.¹
3. Reference the General Norms of *Ex corde Ecclesiae* and the Particular Norms of the Ordinances of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops [CCCCB] (July 7, 2005)
4. Illustrate compliance with the Norms, including:
 - i) Institutional Identity
 - ii) Leadership & Administration
 - iii) Faculty and Academics
 - iv) Students and Pastoral Ministry

A concern that we want to address is that established and emerging institutions are aware of other Catholic institutions and as much as possible seek to complement

¹ In the case of institutions affiliated with the Ukrainian Catholic Church, the competent ecclesial authority is the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of the Eparchy of Saskatoon.

versus compete in a context with limited access to students and resources.

Utilizing this resource as a reference and guide, we hereby mandate that:

1. The institution's Catholic identity is reflected in its Mission Statement, Governing Documents & Statutes, Policy and Programs outline.
2. The General Norms of *Ex corde Ecclesiae* and the Particular Norms of the Ordinances of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops [CCCCB] (July 7, 2005) are reflected in the Governing Documents & Statutes, and Policy.
3. The institution is to illustrate compliance with the Norms of *Ex corde Ecclesiae* and the CCCC, including regarding:
 - a. Institutional Identity
 - b. Leadership & Administration
 - c. Faculty and Academics
 - d. Students and Pastoral Ministry

This would be provided either upon establishment of the new institute; or for existing institutes within 3 months upon reception by the diocesan bishop of these norms. This would also be provided through an update by the Board annually.

4. The establishment of new institutes must be done in consultation with and with the express permission of the local bishop. In the case of programs delivered primarily or partially on-line, the relevant bishop is of the diocese of the program provider's primary domicile.

5. The local bishop is to have a formal appointment as his delegate to the Board of Directors.

6. A comprehensive review every 3 to 5 years – as agreed upon between the Board of Directors and the Bishop – is to be undertaken, in addition to the annual reporting to the Bishop.

7. The institution is to demonstrate the establishment of appropriate "safe environment policies," which also comply with the relevant related policies of the domicile diocese in which they are offering the program(s).

8. Established and emerging institutions are to be aware of existing Catholic institutions in the region and as much as possible seek to complement rather than compete in a context with limited access to students and resources.

9. The Catholic institutions shall foster an integral formation of the human person and seek to serve the mission of Jesus Christ.

We commit to supporting and guiding established and emerging institutions and initiatives, in the spirit of respecting both *subsidiarity* and *solidarity*, with the aim of building quality and excellent Catholic institutions of higher learning and faith formation in our various dioceses and ecclesiastical assemblies.²

We conclude with a statement we made recently in a letter addressing Catholic Education Week May 2025: ...May Catholic education continue to model Christ: “...the Way, the Truth and the Life.” (John 14:16) May it help all to develop the head and the heart so that we may “prepare [our] minds for action; discipline [ourselves]; set all [our] hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring to [us] when He is revealed.” (see 1 Peter 1:13)

Sincerely in Christ,



Most Rev. Donald Bolen
Archbishop of Regina



Most Rev. Mark Hagemoen
Bishop of Saskatoon



Most Rev. Stephen A. Hero
Bishop of Prince Albert



Most Rev. Michael Smolinski, C.SsR
Bishop of the Eparchy of Saskatoon

² St. Thomas More College and St. Peter's College – the federated and affiliated Catholic Colleges of the University of Saskatchewan, and Campion College – the federated Catholic College at the University of Regina – have existing agreements with their local ecclesiastic authority which fulfill the terms and spirit of these norms/ directives. *Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities of Canada* [ACCUC] organizations are guided by the *Association of Colleges and Universities* [ACCU] resource(s) for implementing *Ex corde Ecclesia*, including CCCB ordinances.