Archdiocese of Vancouver

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Dear Editors and News Directors:

A former Vancouver priest and head of the two Catholic colleges at UBC was ordained bishop of Canada's largest-area and northernmost diocese Sunday. Please see photo below.

Most Reverend Mark Hagemoen is the new Bishop of the Diocese of Mackenzie-Fort Smith, based in Yellowknife. Principal consecrator was Archbishop Gerard Pettipas, CSSR, of the Diocese of Grouard-McLennan. Co-consecrators were Archbishop J. Michael Miller of Vancouver and Archbishop Richard Smith of Edmonton.

One of the largest dioceses in the world, Mackenzie-Fort Smith includes most of the Northwest Territories and parts of Nunavut and Saskatchewan, covering 1.5 million square kilometres. It has a population of 49,150 and a Catholic population of about 27,000, almost equally divided between aboriginal and non-aboriginal.

Mackenzie-Fort Smith is a mission diocese supported by the Pontifical Mission Societies, an agency under the jurisdiction of the Vatican Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples.

The diocese has been without a bishop since Bishop Murray Chatlain was appointed archbishop of the Archdiocese of Keewatin-Le Pas in Manitoba last year.

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Backgrounder

Msgr. Mark Hagemoen was born and raised in Vancouver and has served in parishes from Chilliwack to Vancouver for more than 20 years.

He received his BA from UBC and his Master of Divinity at St. Peter's Seminary in London, Ont. He was ordained a priest in 1990. He also has a certificate in youth ministry studies, a diploma for advanced studies in ministry, and earned a doctorate in ministry from Trinity Western University in 2007.

He has been pastor of St. Nicholas Parish in Langley and St. John the Apostle Parish in Vancouver.

He has been involved in chaplaincy work at correctional centres and is a strong promoter of youth and young adult ministry. He was the first director of the Archdiocese of Vancouver's Office of Youth Ministry, established in 2001, with a mandate of bringing parish-based youth ministry throughout the Archdiocese.

From 2004 to 2007 he was vicar general of the Archdiocese of Vancouver, and later became vicar of pastor services and moderator of the curia until 2011.

In December 2007 Pope Benedict XVI honoured Msgr. Hagemoen's service to the Church, recognizing him as a prelate of honour with the title Monsignor.

Since 2011 he has been Principal of Saint Mark's Theological College and President of Corpus Christi College, the liberal arts college at UBC.

Msgr. Hagemoen has held positions on numerous Archdiocesan boards, including the building commission, finance council, and Presbyteral Council.

Under his direction as moderator of the curia, the Archdiocese of Vancouver's first Office of First Nations Ministry was established to promote reconciliation between the Church and First Nations people. He was also the archdiocesan representative in the Truth and Reconciliation process.

He has served on the boards of Covenant House, Redeemer Pacific College, the Catholic Independent Schools of the Archdiocese of Vancouver, and is currently on the UBC Senate.

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