



OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

Sunday, March 17, 2019

To the people of St. Michael - Manfred, the Embassy of Hungary, the Canadian – Hungarian Heritage Council and all those gathered:

Greetings and blessings to all gathered for this ceremony honoring the first Hungarian settlers in Alberta.

My thanks to the Hungarian Embassy and the Canadian – Hungarian Heritage Council for acknowledging these brave pioneers who first settled in this area of Alberta. It is fitting that they are remembered at this holy site. A place of many joyous celebrations it remains a resting place for those gone before us and as a place of consolation for those that remain. We remember them with gratitude.

You gather today on land donated by one of these first Hungarian settlers given generously to be a place of worship for their community. The Catholic Church built entirely on donations and volunteer labour was in its time the only Hungarian Chapel in Alberta. The names, proudly displayed on these headstones, stand as true witness to the commitment to keep alive the Faith within their unique culture.

I am told that the Crucifix, now within this cemetery, once stood at the entrance of the Church with the following inscription: “We adore you O Christ and bless you, because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.” These words unite us with those that have gone before us and never cease to remind us of the life that we are to share in Christ who will transform our earthly bodies to be like his in glory.

I am also grateful for those descendants who continue to proclaim their Faith and their Hungarian ethnicity. My deepest thanks as you remain good and faithful stewards of this property.

My blessings on you this day. Be assured of my prayers.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

✠Richard W. Smith  
Archbishop of Edmonton