

I am very happy to have the opportunity early in this school year to share with you some information regarding Year 2 of *Nothing More Beautiful*.

Evangelization is now one of the priorities of the Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton. Within the context of evangelization we have begun a major initiative called *Nothing More Beautiful* (NMB). The name was chosen after the words of Pope Benedict XVI, “*There is **nothing more beautiful** than to be surprised by the Gospel, by the encounter with Christ. There is **nothing more beautiful** than to know Him and to speak to others of our friendship with Him.*” Nothing More Beautiful is an opportunity for the people of the Archdiocese of Edmonton to reacquaint ourselves with the truths of our faith and to grow in our relationship with Jesus Christ so that we, too, are ready to share this experience with others.

In our second year of NMB, we ponder the beauty and mystery of the person of Jesus Christ, the Son of God made flesh, who gave His life for the salvation of the world. The foundation and lifeblood of Christians is their encounter and living union with Jesus. Our mission is to make Him known as the world’s only hope.

I invite you, this year, to “Encounter Anew the Beauty of Christ” through the 5 encounters scheduled to take place at St. Joseph’s Basilica and the various initiatives undertaken in your local parish and school.

✠Richard W. Smith
Archbishop of Edmonton
October 2009