

**[PLEASE NOTE: This is the summer edition of my E-message. You can expect the September E-message to arrive in your in-box by August 15<sup>th</sup>. Have a blessed and refreshing summer! +RBM]**

### **Bishop's July / August 2011 Message**

The backyard is beckoning to me. Dianne has the green thumb – not me. Our yard isn't a prize-winner. But Dianne's years of patient and consistent nurture have not been in vain. Our yard is a testament to the glory of God's creation. Taste (and look) and see that the Lord is good! It's possible to live through a summer without pauses for wonderment of the good earth. But I don't recommend it. It's hurtful to the soul. Better to lift your eyes up, open your ears, and enter the song.

In a devotion based on Psalm 104 +J. Robert Jacobson (a former bishop of the ABT Synod) writes this entry in his book *All Nature Sings* (Franciscan Press, 2002, pp. 191, 192):

“No one ever really gets used to it,  
The greening of the earth in spring and early summer,  
The transformation of a world of dead stalks and lifeless strands  
Into a paradise of green things  
Bursting,  
Stretching,  
Straining upward...”

Warmth and water return  
And suddenly the world is full of miracles!

Livestock and wildlife,  
Often leaned out to the point of desperation,  
Almost overnight find themselves in the middle of a feast.

People of the land,  
Hanging on to life by the slimmest thread,  
Suddenly don't know what to do with all the food at their disposal...

It's summer!

God's season for fattening up our bodies  
And filling up our larders  
To get ready for the lean months to come.”

I wish you all a time of rest and refreshment as you glory in this summer season!

+Ronald B. Mayan, Bishop  
Synod of Alberta and the Territories