

## Virtuous Windows

STAINED GLASS windows traditionally lift the heart to contemplate matters of faith. Now, for the new cathedral in the Diocese of Saskatoon, Canada, the windows are going to help protect the environment as well.

The Holy Family Cathedral features three windows with over 1,000 photovoltaic cells embedded in the glass. Designed by Toronto glass artist Sarah Hall, the project is a world first.

The glass was made, and the cells embedded, in Germany, and the windows will be installed in May, 2011.

The largest window in the new cathedral, measuring 37 feet by 12 feet, is a representation of the vast Canadian prairie skies entitled "Lux Gloria" in red, gold and blue. The energy from the solar stained glass is the equivalent of that used by five houses for a year, and luckily the city of Saskatoon enjoys more hours of sunshine than any other city in Canada.

The current Bishop of Saskatoon is Donald Bolen, who for seven years worked at the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity.

The 65,000 sq ft cathedral will cost Can\$28.5 million (£18m) and will open in November, 2011. The diocese has a slide show and video of the stained glass on its website:

[www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/cathedral/solar\\_energy.cfm](http://www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/cathedral/solar_energy.cfm)

