

ARCHDIOCESE OF
Regina

2020 Annual Report

Dear Faithful of the Archdiocese of Regina,

“Leaving the crowd behind, they took Jesus with them in the boat... A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, ‘Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?’ He woke up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, ‘Peace! Be still!’ Then the wind ceased...”

Mark 4:35-40



Many of us will remember 2020 as one of the most difficult years of our lives.

Early in the pandemic, Pope Francis gave a meditation on the above reading, connecting it with those hardest hit by the pandemic, saying “Thick darkness has gathered over our squares, our streets and our cities...We find ourselves afraid and lost. Like the disciples in the Gospel we were caught off-guard by an unexpected, turbulent storm.”

In 2020, a good portion of my energy and that of the archdiocesan staff was spent keeping the church going in the midst of the pandemic storm. Early in the pandemic, churches were left out of any reopening plans. I helped to gather faith leaders from across the province to work together in entering into conversation with government and Saskatchewan Health Authority officials, and a liaison committee was set up to attend to our concerns and needs. Through the rest of 2020, that helped significantly. We had many meetings with government representatives to map out ways to keep places of worship open as much as possible. While not removing the tremendous challenges we faced, at least we had a dialogue partner that we collaborated with in mapping a way forward. I am very proud of the work that was done by parish and diocesan centre staff in the midst of incredibly adverse circumstances.

While I was not able to travel around the Archdiocese to preside at confirmations, install pastors, or attend special parish celebrations because of the pandemic, work continued on various fronts. We learned how to effectively use webcams and hold virtual meetings, and I attended so many that I learned firsthand what is meant by zoom fatigue. With the help of our communications team, I also looked to new ways to communicate with the people of the archdiocese. When 17,000 people tuned in to watch the Easter Vigil, I realized anew the rich potential of communicating through videos and livestreaming. While it was not business as usual, I am grateful for the way that in our parishes and in our pastoral office, we sought ways to continue the work of the church.

In 2020, we continued to deal with the legacy of clergy sexual abuse in the archdiocese, to take steps so that we do all we can to reduce the possibility of abuse in the future, and to walk with victims, including those who were generously willing to advise and assist us in working towards transparency and accountability. Our core working group helped to initiate workshops for deaneries, and accompaniment workshops for those wanting to learn more about walking with victims. We worked with parishes in putting on prayer services, revised our policy for dealing with reports of abuse, and arranged that counselling would be available to any victim who would seek assistance in that way, with a counsellor who specializes in working with adults sexually abused as children and the complex trauma that results. Towards the end of the year, we made arrangements to hire a victim to engage in Victims Services and Advocacy. We have sought to move from the first instinctive response of 'defending the church' to a prioritizing of accompanying, listening to and learning from victims. It is a difficult journey, as always most difficult for victims themselves, but we are taking small steps forward.

As in the past, I carry a number of national and international commitments, largely concerned with Indigenous relations and with ecumenical dialogue, and while there was no air travel after March of 2020, the meetings did not quit, and in many instances, the work ramped up. On a personal note, in 2020 I was able to make a move from the city to a farmhouse in the country. By coincidence or grace, there is also a small former school on the property that my mother attended when she was young, almost 100 years ago now. It is a great blessing to be able to work in the prairie light and walk in the fields. Heartfelt thanks to all the Knights of Columbus and other volunteers who helped to renovate the farm house where I live, and to others who provided all kinds of support and assistance, including seeds and plants with which to start a garden. I am deeply grateful.

On a diocesan level, the Rebuilding Our Church Capital Campaign began the year with much enthusiasm, and then due to Covid restrictions meetings with potential donors were put on hold for a number of months before resuming in the fall. In the meantime, a campaign website was created with all the latest updates at www.rebuildingourchurch.ca. I am grateful to the campaign committee volunteers who worked throughout the year, and to the many who donated and pledged to the campaign during uncertain times.

Returning to Pope Francis's meditation on the calming of the storm, he reminded us that we are all in the same boat, fragile, disoriented but all together on this planet. Looking back on 2020, I have deep gratitude for God's faithfulness and for the many people inside and outside the church who have worked so hard to help us weather the storm.

Yours in Christ,



+Donald Bolen
Archbishop of Regina



Department of Pastoral Services

by Lisa Polk, Director of Pastoral Services

Last year I ended my report with these words:

As the challenge to pastorally meet the many needs of all of the people throughout the Archdiocese of Regina continues, we persevere with the inspiration provided only by the One who sends us on this mission – Jesus Christ. These words ring true as I reflect on 2020.

2020 – The year the pandemic took over our lives. It has been a year of extraordinary change. We have learned new things. We've had to change some habits, some that are necessary, some that are temporary, and some that will remain with us as we move into the future.

We experienced only 2 months of 2020 where we felt somewhat removed from the pandemic that was spreading quickly from continent to continent. One of the last pre-pandemic experiences in our Archdiocese was hosting the Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Luigi Bonazzi. His message for the groups who were able to meet with him was about the great love of Christ. Archbishop Luigi provided a timely message and much hope for the future of our Church.



As we closed the Pastoral Centre to the public in March, the staff quickly re-assessed their work and transitioned their ministries into the online world. Words that just a few weeks before had seemed foreign were now part of daily conversation: Zoom, GoTo Meeting, Teams, virtual gathering, online meeting, home office, “you are muted”.

Some of us mourned the loss of exciting projects and events that had to be postponed or cancelled.

The pandemic didn't stop us though. Many of the losses and challenges were met with innovative solutions:

-We couldn't hold in-person Mass in SK? We offered a daily Mass livestreamed from our own Archdiocese.

-Archdiocese Congress couldn't take place in person? We held the Congress live online and more people viewed it than the number of people who would have attended in person.

-Workshops and meetings couldn't be held? Offering online meeting opportunities allowed the parishes and archdiocese to save in travel time and costs, and attendance was often higher.

Our Pastoral Centre Leadership and Staff regularly monitor local health requirements, create liturgical direction for parishes based on those requirements, and keep the clergy and parishes up to date on all current directives.

Our Finance Office Staff were able to guide parishes through the applications to receive financial relief from the Government of Canada. Through weekly emails to the parish staff and volunteers who are responsible for payroll, a good line of communication was opened and will continue after the pandemic.

We still yearn for the day when we will be able to meet and visit and minister with each other in person. Until then, the clergy and staff of the Archdiocese of Regina will continue to learn, grow, innovate, and find inspired ways to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout southern Saskatchewan.

Then they said to him, “What must we do to perform the works of God?” Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” John 6:28-29

We Are Here to Serve You

(list as of June 1, 2021)

Ali, Abdul.....	Social Justice
Andree, Rev. Ron.....	Liturgy
Bender, Sharon.....	Parish Pastoral Support Services
Bolen, Most Rev. Donald.....	Archbishop
Braden, Michelle.....	Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry
Burkhart, Leona.....	Parish Pastoral Support Services
Crozon, Very Rev. Lorne.....	Vicar General
Fahlman, Rev. Brad.....	Bishop's Delegate for Victims of Clergy Sexual Abuse
Feist, Sr. Bernadette.....	Indigenous Relations
Fellingner, Joan.....	Pastoral Services Administrative Support
Fitzgerald, Jerry.....	Health Care Chaplaincy
Gorospe, Sr. Amelia SIHM.....	Marriage Tribunal
Graham, Jared.....	Archbishop's Appeal Assistant
Gurash, Rev. Mr. Eric.....	Director of Communications and Evangelization
Gurash, Melissa.....	Pastoral Services and Archbishop's Office Administrative Support
Hilbig, Theresa.....	Visitation House
Jesson, Nicholas.....	Ecumenism & Interfaith Relations
Klein, Susan.....	Archives
Kuntz, Braden.....	Youth Ministry and Archbishop's Office Administrative Support
Letourneau, Sr. RéAnne.....	Indigenous Relations
Lindenbach, Fr. Christian.....	Assistant to the Archbishop
Love, Rev. Parker.....	Director of Vocations
Luka, Lukose.....	Finance
Martinez, Maria.....	Archbishop's Appeal Coordinator
Meredith, Rev. Brian.....	Vicar General
Miller, Marlene.....	Spiritual Direction
Newton, Bob.....	Health Care Chaplaincy
Nguyen, Very Rev. Thomas.....	Judicial Vicar
Ochieng, Jennifer.....	Finance
Okai, Rev. J.B.....	Health Care Chaplaincy
Owolagba, Very Rev. James.....	Chancellor
Rafael, Rev. Danilo.....	Personnel
Polk, Lisa.....	Director of Pastoral Services
Rink, Joan.....	Health Care Chaplaincy
Salkeld, Brett.....	Theologian and Diaconal Formation
Smith, David.....	Marriage Tribunal
Thiele Hunt, Bonnie.....	Health Care Chaplaincy
Toupin, Tashia.....	Social Justice Coordinator
Trainor, Amanda.....	Pastoral Services and Archbishop's Office Administrative Support
Walsh, Pamela.....	Victims' Services and Advocacy
Wood, Rev. Mr. Barry.....	Financial Officer

Communications and Evangelization

by Deacon Eric Gurash, Director of Communications and Evangelization



This most unusual of times in global history and in the history of our Church has presented unique challenges as well as unique opportunities. The need for rapid, clear, and consistent communications has been at the center of almost all of our projects through 2020.

Communications:

As pandemic-related restrictions made in-person gatherings for liturgical celebrations impossible for most of the Archdiocese, we were forced to quickly pivot previously planned events for Holy Week and Easter to live-streamed, online formats.



Our prior relationship with local video production company, On Reel Media, as well as video and live streaming infrastructure at Regina's Resurrection and Christ the King parishes, proved quite fortuitous in all of this. Quick access to the needed technology and technical skillsets already developed allowed us to quickly coordinate and offer live-streamed Masses for the Chrism Mass, Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter.

At their height, these initial broadcasts reached nearly 26,000 homes with messages of shared anxiety and confusion but, more importantly, the hope of the Gospel during unprecedented and uncertain times.

This formerly under-utilized platform provided us with an essential means of maintaining vital pandemic-related information, as well as spiritual and emotional support for the faithful of our Archdiocese for the majority of 2020. This has included Weekly Messages and video statements from Bishop Don providing regular spiritual and emotional support as well as conveying important updates regarding pandemic restrictions and those ways we were petitioning the province for consideration of religious needs during this time.

Live-streamed Masses continued for daily and weekend celebrations with assistance from local parishes with streaming capabilities. These were able to stream their Masses directly to our YouTube channel, allowing the faithful of the Archdiocese one-stop access to these celebrations streamed directly to their living rooms and devices. Special thanks to St. Cecilia, Our Lady of Peace, St. Augustine Parish, Wilcox, Christ the King, Regina, and Resurrection parishes who generously assisted with this in 2020.

Overall, 2020 saw a 608% increase in subscriptions to our Youtube channel with average monthly content views of nearly 22,000 per month.

The pandemic through 2020 highlighted the need for digital alternatives to formerly hardcopy communications. Bulletins moved to strictly online formats, and more parishes began to rely on social media pages, websites, and email lists for ongoing contact with parishioners. The emphasis we had given in 2019 to further develop our digital platforms has served us well, but the pandemic necessitated further development.

This included the adoption of the Flocknote platform for newsletter and mass email communications from the Archdiocese of Regina. This system is currently used by a number of departments for mass communication to their members. Items such as the Weekly Bulletin and Weekly Report have been moved to this platform, whose flexibility and access to resources also allowed us to run special a special Advent prayer resource campaign through December.

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Organization Facilitation Committee

by Rev. Brian Meredith



The Organizational Facilitation Committee (the “OFC”) is like other Archdiocesan departments and committees in 2020 that were able to continue working - sometimes connecting with priests and parishioners in person and sometimes virtually throughout the Archdiocese of Regina. The OFC is tasked with assisting when challenges arise and are ready to journey along with the individuals involved in either simple or complex issues. The members of the Committee, Fr. Brian Meredith, Fr. Brad Fahlman, Lisa Polk, Sharon Bender, and Leona Burkhart. Although most of the work of the OFC is undertaken with a great deal of sensitivity and can't be shared in a public document, here are a few of the ways we were able to journey with others in 2020

The OFC had the honour this year of guiding and supporting three parishes as they made the difficult decision to close their churches and see changes to the boundaries of the pastoral region. This is a time of mixed emotions for the communities and for the entire Archdiocese. We mourn with the communities of Val Marie, Mankota, and Glentworth. We pray that the expanded parishes the people are now a part of will be places of welcome, and rest and rejuvenation for the weary.

The OFC provided guidance and support to people associated with the Fairlight church who asked that the church be decommissioned and sold. We are grateful that the church was sold to people who will restore, maintain and deeply care for the church building in the current location.

The OFC provided guidance and support to St. Anne's and St. Jean Baptiste as they entered a new working relationship together and sharing a new pastor. We are grateful to everyone involved during the process for their cooperation, support, openness and prayers.

Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care

by Bonnie Thiele Hunt, Chaplain

2020 has been about providing Spiritual Care in the unknown and constantly shifting landscape of the COVID-19 pandemic. With the loss of the Spiritual Care Department in 2017, and still negotiating the place of Spiritual Care within the newly formed Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA), the Catholic chaplains and their ecumenical colleagues found ways to be creative in providing ongoing Spiritual Care.

Some reorganization was required. The SHA cohorted longterm and acute care, meaning that personnel was not to cross between them. Spiritual Care volunteers were not able to be present as most were considered vulnerable individuals. Gatherings in hospitals were discontinued—that included the Sunday Masses in the various facilities. In-person Spiritual Care was often reserved for end-of-life. When not able to visit in person, chaplains were able to reach out through telephone calls, handwritten cards, or through technology such as Zoom and Facetime. However, with visiting being so limited, the in-person Spiritual Care was much appreciated, as was the sacramental care that many had not had experienced in a considerable time.



Joan Rink



Bonnie Thiele Hunt



Jerry Fitzgerald

Like the other ministries of the Archdiocese of Regina, and many in the world around us, Spiritual Care seeks to be a healing presence in an unprecedented and difficult time.

Archives

by Susan Klein, Archivist

Off and on I have been blessed with a volunteer in the Archives. I can't tell you the difference that has made in my life at work. (We follow all Covid - 19 protocols.) It is a blessing to be able to share the work that you do and that you love with another person. Financially, we are not always able to hire people, but when someone offers their time and skills to help – it is definitely great.

Being in a rented building, we are constantly under threat of having to move to a short term facility. With that in mind I am always working to be sure that I am caught up as much as possible with the work in the archives.

I feel totally grateful when the Archives is remembered for the small artefacts that people have in their homes – the photos of their church in the 1940's that they found, or the baptismal gown that was worn by all the children in their family. I particularly like the photos that show the churches or homes interiors and see how vastly things have changed in that regard. I recently received photos of the Oblates 100th anniversary and also photos of Msgr. Mondor's ordination in Willow Bunch in 1939.

One wall in my office has many crucifixes on it – some waiting on a small repair. There are also paintings and a veneration box. The crucifixes come from many people who donate them to be given away. We are pleased to provide this as a service to so many. The small painting shown is one of a pair that belonged to the late Archbishop Charles Halpin. When he passed away – they went to Archbishop Peter Mallon's home, then upon his death, here. There is a quietness, and a stillness about the painting that is quite lovely.



44 cm x 18 cm x 1.5 cm deep



53 cm x 44 cm x 10 cm deep

The veneration box was part of a donation from Fred Hill. The year he passed away, many of his religious items were brought to the Archdiocesan Centre to be dispersed to the priests and religious in our Archdiocese. The shadow box was one item that was taken for our Archives by Msgr. Ken Miller. Made in 1877, the shadow box is made up of the Crucifix scene and the Instruments of the Passion (Arma Christi). Many of the items within the box are not glued on, so it must be kept upright at all times. In ours, there are some pieces that are no longer attached. There are many of these boxes in people's homes throughout the Archdiocese. Although ours is not perfect, it is a valued piece in our Archives, both because of what it is and because of who donated it. Fred Hill was installed as a Knight Commander of the Order of St Gregory the Great in 2007. He was a kind man and a long time benefactor of our church.

Visitation House

by Theresa Hilbig, Executive Director



I greet you in the name of Jesus! Visitation House is still the same, but different. Visitation House did a complete back flip in 2020. When we opened our doors, in the year 2000, we were a Drop-in-Center. People just dropped in and picked up some cookies to go. They stayed a short while and perhaps used the phone, read the paper, and then left. Over the years, we became much more than this. We became a community of “Women helping Women.” We offered donated items of clothes, household items, books, religious items, etc. We offered programming, counselling, support, referrals, assistance filling out forms, filing income tax and much more. Covid-19, put a sudden stop to all those supports!

First of all, we closed from mid-March to the end of May. During this time, I offered support over the phone, and in many cases, outreach into the community. I took groceries to many houses, helped shut-ins with finding home-care services, and took Holy water to those who wanted to bless their homes. In June, we opened, softly, offering “store front” services only. July has always been “holiday month” so we were closed again. In August, we began to make hot meals again. We served up to 15 people, with Covid protocols in place. By November, we had been instructed to only offer services to 10 women at a time.

By December, the number of people we could serve dropped to 5. We put together Christmas gift bags and these were given to anyone who came to the centre. We managed to hand out around 50 gift bags.



Covid-19 did not stop John Weckend and his QCM Relay team! Although it looked quite different this year, the relay team ran, and raised over \$6,000.00 for the Centre.

In January, we were instructed that no food or beverages were to be served. This has continued to the present time. We have been making up lunch bags, which we give out to anyone who drops in. Ever since our hot meals and community gatherings were stopped, our numbers have been quite low. I still give out emergency groceries, and have delivered some groceries to families who were unable to come to the centre.

This week, one young woman, looking for a place to live, needed a quiet place to nap. I offered her the couch, and she gratefully accepted. She returned every day, with a grateful heart. By the third day, she even started conversing with us!

For now, we are again a Drop-in-Centre. The women are hopeful, that soon, we will again be able to pray, visit, eat and laugh together again.

I do know, by the telephone conversations I have had with many women, they are happy we are still operating. They tell me that even though they are not able to participate at Visitation House, just knowing that we are here, praying for them, offers comfort and hope for the future!

Thank you to all those individuals and organizations that have chosen to continue supporting Visitation House!

Archdiocesan Theologian & Permanent Diaconate

by Dr. Brett Salkeld, Archdiocesan Theologian

Permanent Diaconate

As with almost everything else in 2020, our diaconate formation program had to adapt on the fly to the situation presented to us by the COVID pandemic. As a result, we have learned a lot about online programming and formation.



On the one hand, significant aspects of formation that happen on weekends spent together in prayer and fellowship are impossible to replicate online. In addition, it has been impossible under current public health restrictions to engage in many of the activities that normally happen in our communities as part of our formation. For these reasons, we will be extending the length of the program by one year, as we have lost more than a full year of face-to-face meetings.

On the other hand, online meetings have allowed us to engage with experts from across North America and given our aspirants access to a remarkable range of experience and expertise at a low cost. We will discern how to incorporate such elements into the program even as we return to in-person meetings.

The archdiocese has three men in formation in this cohort, and we are joined by aspirants for the Diocese of Saskatoon. Despite the obvious difficulties of this year, the men are growing in their life of prayer, their knowledge and love of Christ and the Church, and their desire to serve God's people.

Finally, over the past year, I have heard from other potential aspirants for future cohorts and am working with them on elements of formation (e.g., Clinical Pastoral Education) that they might be able to pursue before formal application. Such accompaniment and advising at a more formal level is a new initiative for our program and we pray it will bear fruit in the future of the program.

Archdiocesan Theologian



I am blessed to be able to pursue many other exciting and valuable projects that help build up the faith in our local Catholic community and, through writing, podcasting, and speaking, beyond our borders as well.

In 2020, after a couple years of groundwork, more than a dozen Catholic teachers from our Archdiocese were able to begin coursework on a Masters of Religious Education from Newman Theological College. While COVID again complicated our plans, the teachers were able to study New Testament online last summer with Father Geoffrey Young of the Diocese of Saskatoon, and I taught their Ecclesiology course online in the fall semester. These teachers are growing in their love and knowledge of the faith and will transmit that faith with depth and integrity to their students for years to come. Having received Masters degrees, several of them may move into administrative roles as their careers progress and magnifying the impact of the program even further.

2020 also saw a provincial election, and I was delighted to be able to work, along with other staff from our Archdiocese and the other dioceses in Saskatchewan, with the lay apostolate Catholic Conscience on a campaign to inform Catholic voters. Catholic Conscience is dedicated to forming Catholics for participation in the public life of Canada. This includes not only working with Catholic voters, but with Catholic politicians at all levels. Their impact is just starting to be felt, but the future is full of promise, and I am honored to collaborate in their exciting work.

I continued to work with Deacon Eric Gurash to produce our Archdiocesan podcast, Thinking Faith! In 2020, we welcomed more guests than ever to our show and had many stimulating and faith-filled conversations. The impact of the podcast continues to grow and we passed 48,000 downloads in 2020!

I have been fortunate to find more outlets to share the good news of our Catholic faith and to help Catholics navigate confusing or controversial issues in today's world. Among these are Church Life Journal, The Busted Halo Show on the Catholic Channel on Sirius XM, Crux, and the Youtube channel of Pastor Paul VanderKlay.

It is a blessing to receive messages from those who have encountered my work on these platforms and who have, for example, helped Catholic teachers better understand and communicate the relationship between science and faith, or come to a clearer appreciation of the application of complex Catholic moral teaching to issues like voting or vaccinations, or grown in their understanding and love of Christ, present in the Holy Eucharist. When these opportunities arise, I pray that I represent our archdiocese well to the broader Catholic community.

Of course, I am always available for our local Church and have been a guest speaker in parish RCIA programs, our Lay Formation program, our Catholic schools, and many other such contexts. Meeting the faithful of our archdiocese and helping Catholics to better understand, communicate, and love our faith is a joy and a privilege.

Parish Pastoral Support Services

by Sharon Bender and Leona Burkhart, Parish Pastoral Support Services Coordinators

The Parish Pastoral Support Service department has had a busy but different year. Although limited in travel, the department was still able to conduct on-site protocol audits with several parishes. This process will continue and a five year on-site Protocol audit has been implemented. Over 100 files for parishioners who have passed away, have moved or are no longer active in ministry were processed in 2020. These files are sent to the Archdiocese where we record and file them, to be kept for 99 years. The retention is not only important to meet the expectations of our insurer but also as a record if there are ever any questions in the future.



Sharon Bender



Leona Burkhart

In addition to helping parishes with protocol for volunteers, we continue to work with parishes on employment related issues. Parishes who employ people for various roles in the church often asked for assistance in creating job descriptions and contracts of employment. Support for parishes with supervision and evaluation procedures is also provided.



Parishes often look for support in re-energizing their parish. We generally meet with the parish priest, the parish council and interested parishioners a couple of times to reflect on where they are currently, where they would like to be in the future and develop goals on how to get there. We then meet to facilitate the creation of action plans to achieve these goals.

As members of the Dying Healed team, we have been exploring ways to provide Dying Healed workshops. These workshops look at helping people who are struggling due to serious physical, isolation or mental illness or old age. The program presents the concept of all of us being made in the image of God no matter our age or health conditions. The intent is to create a supportive Faith relationship for those who do not feel valued. It is hoped that these workshops can resume in some format in the future.

As an initiative to provide support to struggling parish communities, the Organizational Facilitation Committee was created in 2019. We are members of this committee providing

support to parishes who need some assistance. By acting as facilitators for these parishes, we can help them come to a reasonable solution. In 2020 four parishes chose to combine with other parishes. As the OFC, we have journeyed with these parishes during the discernment process, assisted with the Decommissioning Ceremonies and facilitated parishes in the final steps.

The Visiting Clergy Policy was written in 2020 and a process developed for implementation.

The Parish Pastoral Support Services office main goal is to assist parish become strong, healthy communities driven by a strong relationship with God.

Social Justice

by Tashia Toupin, Social Justice Coordinator

2020 sure was a year—a year of dashed dreams, of technical skill development, and one of contemplation and reprioritization. Rather than give you a list of the events put on and attended throughout this past year, I would like to highlight some of the significant challenges and successes.

Challenges:

- Simultaneous event planning for in-person and virtual gatherings;
- Learning all the new technology to keep in contact and keep engagement with parishes and organizations;
- Not being able to meet with people, hear stories, make organic connections, and network at gatherings;
- Feeling cut-off and disconnected from parishes and their communities;
- Constantly wondering if the work being done in the Pastoral Office was reaching anyone.

Successes:

-After a brief pause, the social justice commission gathered virtually. We steeped ourselves in prayer and discernment. We have come up with a beautiful vision to collaborate with the archdiocesan parishes through the Holy Spirit's guidance. The execution of which will take place in 2021. Look out for that!

-We created a 6-part video resource for parishes, book clubs, individuals to explore and delve into Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si'*. There are a few laughs, some reflection questions for you to grapple with, and some beautiful photos to engage your imagination. To view episode 1, please click the link: <https://youtu.be/ohJhX8IEJEc>



-The SJ office also created a short video series explaining Catholic Social Teaching, called “Spilling the Tea” This was in an effort to bring together people from across the diocese that are doing the work of justice and living out Catholic Social Teachings in their everyday lives. CST is often referred to as the “best-kept secret,” and so we wanted to let the cat out of the bag about incorporating these principles into our lives as regular everyday people. To view episode 1, please click the link: <https://youtu.be/Lr4C2xrs47I?t=90>



Tashia Toupin and Ali Abdul of the Social Justice Department

The refugee office was hugely successful in sending in applications for 51 individuals. We were able to welcome a few families in 2020 after stringent COVID screening and isolation practices. We are looking to further our reach with volunteers in as many communities as possible. Thank you to those who have responded to the vast need in our world.

Catechetical Support for Parishes

by Robert Barr

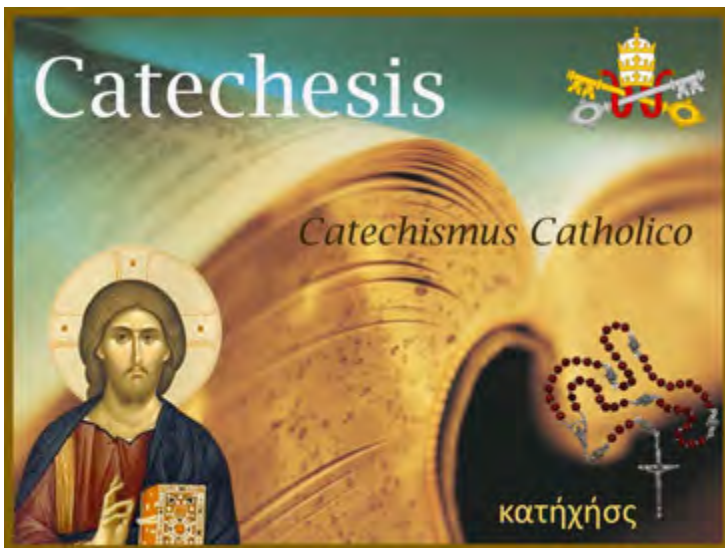
In 2020, the Catechetical Office set out to journey with, and support, the Catechists of the Archdiocese in both rural and urban parishes. A particular need was identified among rural parishes for support with on-going Catechesis. A main target of the Department was to travel throughout the Archdiocese to personally meet all the priests and Catechists; as well as, seek out supportive opportunities and represent the Regina Archdiocese at Provincial and National Catechesis associations.



Robert Barr

I began 2020 by dedicating this ministry to further understanding and communion with God by using Eucharistic Prayer IV as a muse. My first meditation of the new year started with the line: "...who alone are good, the source of life, have made all that is, so that you might fill your creatures with blessings and bring joy to many of them by the glory of your light".

The arrival of 2020 brought the hopeful beginning of a new decade along with the anticipated release of the New Directory of Catechesis and it was received with great joy. It did a marvellous job of representing the diverse world of Catechesis that thoroughly speaks to our Archdiocese with a fresh approach.



After only a few months of settling into 2020, our world changed over-night, after placing various plans on hold we quickly switched directions for delivering and achieving goals. In the course of our adjustment, providence presented boundless prospects to move forward in creative ways to support Catechists and many welcomed innovative alternatives, proving that their ministry not only survived, but there was a desire for it to thrive. It became evident that the Holy Spirit was still waiting in the Eucharistic Prayer to sustain us with a message of hope. The Holy Spirit was indeed moving, much of the personal interaction with Catechists included listening, praying and a chance to acknowledge the accomplishments of their ministry. The office experienced meaningful encounters with Catechists as they faced weekly challenges and we shared in their hardships. Many

simply desired to be heard and needed to talk though new ideas of carrying on the transfer of Faith.

Catechists were on a steep learning curve to adapt their ministry and credit must be given to those who forged ahead. They did not set out to inspire the Catechetical Office, but they did and without knowing it, they reminded us to "be not afraid". Our Catechists accomplished exactly what they are called to do---that is, to teach. The Church is in good hands.

Our Lord promises he will take care of us and thus brought a renewed gratitude for the road of humility at the Office of Catechesis. While jogging the memory of human pride that God is in control, mindful of the teachings of Jesus in the Gospel to: "set your heart on His Kingdom first, and on God's saving justice and all these things will be given to you as well. So, do not worry about tomorrow, tomorrow will take care of itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own" (Matt 6.33-34).

We earnestly pray for all Catechists and Priests as they bravely move forward teaching the Faith. Whether big or small, we pray for the opportunities to hear and see the moments that teach us to put our trust in God. Finally, we ask for your prayers, that we never cease in praying for you, never cease in praying with you and to faithfully serve you "where you are at".

Spiritual Direction

by **Marlene Miller**

During this past year of the pandemic the creative Spirit of God inspired the Spiritual Directors of the Archdiocese of Regina with new ways to continue to serve God's people. Holy listening, one-to-one, continued with directees via zoom, Facetime, telephone, or any virtual way that accommodated them. Since May, faith sharing and educational programs were offered once a month via Zoom. A blessing of meeting virtually is that gatherings give support to Spiritual Directors from other provinces i.e. Ontario, Manitoba and B.C.

Spiritual Directors were asked about how they had reached out to others during this past year during the pandemic. Following are some of the replies:

- "I invited lay people to discover The Liturgy of the Hours and we met by means of Zoom."
- "Two of us gave the First Spiritual Exercises via Zoom in our Parish as an Advent Retreat."
- "I was in contact with two families we knew well who were refugees during the 1980's. Members of both families are now suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder."
- "I have been journeying with several persons who are making the 32-week Ignatian Adventure Retreat."
- "During this Covid time I have done lots of informal listening by phone...many are having a difficult time grieving properly by not being able to have the gatherings that are usually part of a funeral...or those who are in nursing homes and cannot have visitors."

The two-year Contemplative Listening Spiritual Directors Formation program continued in January 2020 with a six-day guided retreat at St. Peter's Abbey for the eight participants. Under supervision, the Spiritual Directors-in-training did a practicum of giving spiritual direction to each other in a retreat setting.

Then the pandemic began. In May the team, Karen and Dennis Ziegler and Stephanie Molloy, worked with Eric Gurash so that Spiritual Direction Candidates could give spiritual direction in a personally directed retreat for Lay Formation participants via Zoom. One of the Candidates commented after the retreat "It was such an honour to lead my two directees through this retreat. Thank you for all your hard work, the learning of Zoom and all the ways you worked to make this as special as possible. To all the directors who held us in prayer, my deepest thanks."

The candidates were delighted to receive the following message: "We are pleased to inform you that we will be proceeding with our final weekend on June 5-6, 2020 including your final commissioning. We will be doing the weekend on Zoom . . . Archbishop Don will be commissioning you . . ." About 60 family, spiritual directors and friends were able to attend.

The eight new Spiritual Directors were eager to continue learning. Again via Zoom, in September, four who had previously made a 32-week Ignatian Spiritual Exercises Retreat, began training and supervision as they journeyed through this same retreat with two directees each. The other four are preparing for training next year.



Indigenous Relations

by Sr. RéAnne Letourneau p.m.

Archdiocesan Commission for Truth and Reconciliation (ACTR)

The year 2020 marked the five-year anniversary of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's publication of its 6 volume Final Report, with its 94 Calls to Action. The TRC Final Report was an invitation to our nation and to our churches to open our eyes to the suffering experienced by Indigenous people as a result of colonization and efforts at forced assimilation, most notably in the residential school system. The TRC's Final Report did not give up on the churches, but rather, summoned us to conversion, owning past sins and mistakes, and learning how to walk in solidarity with Indigenous people in building a different and better future together.

Here in the Archdiocese of Regina, the ACTR has set out to strengthen relations and discern together what steps the Archdiocese can take in responding to the TRC Calls to Action. In 2020 we continued with various initiatives within our 4 circles of activity and engagement wherein we can strive to strengthen relations, and respond to the TRC Calls to Action.

Here are a few highlights that stand out this past year that focused on walking with and listening to survivors of residential schools, formation for those in leadership and education for parishes and all people:

In the beginning of March, the Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Luigi Bonazzi, took time in his pastoral visit to the Archdiocese to encounter some of the Indigenous kokums (grandmothers) at Sacred Heart School, to listen to their Residential School experiences. It was a beautiful encounter of deep listening, and an acknowledgment of pain that helps facilitate healing and reconciliation. He also participated in a regional listening circle that the Archdiocese hosted. The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has encouraged Diocesan/Regional Listening Circles with Indigenous Communities, where Bishops and church representatives listen deeply to Indigenous Elders, Knowledge Keepers and other members of the Indigenous community. These listening circles are focused on the theme of healing, within Indigenous communities, in the Church and in society, asking how the Church and Indigenous communities might envision walking together towards the future.



Archbishop Luigi Bonazzi with the kokums

Another area that encompassed formation for those in leadership was our involvement in a Working Group on Indigenous Spirituality. The CCCB is wanting to study Indigenous spirituality, in part responding to TRC Calls to Action 48 n. ii and 60, and to the United Nation Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The goal is to provide bishops and potentially Catholic parishes across the country with a better understanding of Indigenous spirituality. A resource is being prepared in consultation with Indigenous Elders and practitioners of Indigenous spirituality, with the help of Indigenous researchers and writers. One section of the resource that is being drafted in this Archdiocese concerns an overview of themes in Indigenous spirituality, drawing on Indigenous languages, spiritual connections to the land and all creation through creation stories, traditions, ceremonies, and teachings, as they are found in different parts of the country and among different Indigenous Peoples. Our working group here in the Archdiocese has really enjoyed this process of research and relationship building with one another, with the excitement in knowing that we have been involved in a process that we hope will impact the church in Canada.

Part of our effort in formation and educational opportunities, especially for parishes, is an initiative entitled "4 Seasons of Reconciliation". It is a series of multi-media teaching units that was developed and produced by Productions Cazabon in partnership with First Nations University of Canada, to promote a renewed relationship between Indigenous Peoples and Canadians through transformative learning. Much work and preparation has been going on throughout 2020 and it's our hope that we can embark on this journey as an Archdiocese this year of 2021.

continued...

Aboriginal Non Aboriginal Relations Community (ANARC)

The year 2020, with the challenges of the pandemic, certainly affected our ability to gather as we usually do, especially for our monthly potlucks and sharing circles, as well as attending events and ceremonies. However, members of ANARC tried to be creative in the ways that we kept in contact so relationships could still thrive, with regular telephone calls, one-on-one physically distanced visits, and porch drop offs of groceries and other essential items for our Elders when the need arose.

It was a joy to deliver Easter baskets to the kokums, with the Easter-Bunny-nun and her team of helpers! Summertime allowed us to have our regular gatherings at Candy Park, following Covid guidelines. And when the weather turned cold again we began virtual monthly "potlucks" and sharing time by zoom. It certainly was not the same as gathering in person, and yet there was and still continues to be a sense of joy and family spirit when we can gather regularly, even through video technology!



Christmas gift baskets

The highlight was our zoom Christmas party: we "ate together" each in our own homes, then managed to have a Christmas sing-a-long which everyone enjoyed, along with individual home performances! One of the kokums and her grandchildren, all dressed up in their Christmas outfits, proudly singing "Little Drummer Boy" and "Here Comes Santa Claus" in Cree. Another family brought out all their hand drums and the adults, as well as the children, sang and drummed a traditional Round Dance "Merry Christmas" song. The energy was so electric it almost felt like they were physically present in everyone's home!

Like last year, Christ the King Parish wanted to acknowledge in a special way, the Indigenous grandmothers. So on a blizzard day just before Christmas I had the joy of helping deliver gift baskets with 3 other parishioners to the kokums, who received them with much joy and gratitude!

Despite the many challenges we have faced this year in 2020, the pandemic has not prevented us from striving to continue the relationships built between one another. Whether it's been during the Christmas season and the joy it brings, the

Easter season of hope rising from the Pascal Mystery, or the ordinary times of peaceful presence and in the day to day struggles for justice and reconciliation...the ANARC family remains strong and rooted in love!

Valley Native Ministry

by Sr. Bernadette Feist, osu



Our ministry continued as much as possible during pandemic year 2020. Weekend liturgies continued in Sakimay, File Hills/Peepeekisis, Lestock/Muskowekwan, Sakimay, and Lakeview Lodge/Standing Buffalo up until Covid lockdown. We had 3 Baptisms, Confirmations and First Eucharists, 21 funerals, and brought communion to Elders and the sick in Peepeekisis, Lestock, Muskowekwan, Lebret, Regina, Pasqua, Muscowpetung and Balcarres as requested.

Sr. Bernadette Feist

I presented to the Lay Formation program Year III attendees about First Nations' Spirituality. I also presented to the Sisters' Association of the Regina Archdiocese and Papal Nuncio gatherings. We had two Bible study/DVD presentation evenings on Scripture before Covid struck.

Our "Too Good to be Threw" fundraiser in Lebret was closed from March 20 until June 26, 2020 due to Covid. It was then open for take-out lunches, serving 40-60 each Friday. Over 80 people were served Thanksgiving dinner and 83 were served Christmas dinner.

The Lebret Museum is usually open daily from mid-May long weekend until September. This year, Covid restricted our tour groups from visiting, but we still had smaller groups from SK, AB, MB and BC, many First Nations' visits from Standing Buffalo, Starblanket, Lebret, Saskatoon, Cowessess, Pasqua, Gordon, Peepeekisis, Regina, and more. It was good to be of help in searching and researching information of ancestry and stories (TRC and 60's Scoop).

Thank you to all volunteers. We are all a part of Valley Native Ministry.

Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry

by Michelle Braden, Youth Ministry Co-ordinator

The first lines of our annual report for LAST year (2019) began with the following words.....

“Change. Renewal. Hope. Grieving. Letting go. Reimagining. These were all themes that marked Youth ministry as we spent a lot of time re- envisioning what a Diocesan Youth Office needs to look like in our new and ever-changing reality.”

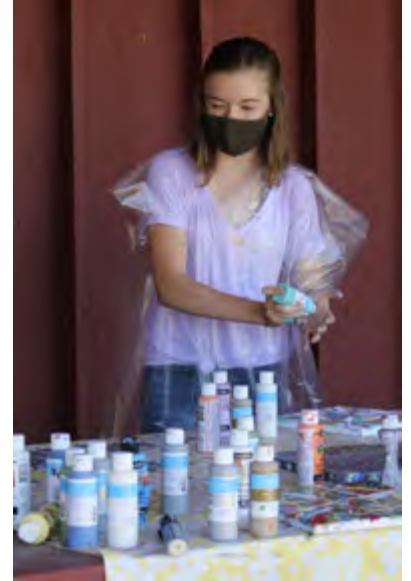
Well! Those themes that we began to wrestle with in 2019 most certainly continued and amplified in the year that was 2020! The following is what we have learned and where it is leading us.

Change of Name

One of the most notable changes was a change in the name of our office. The youth ministry office of the Archdiocese of Regina has been renamed ‘The Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry’. We’ve long recognized the need for ministry to young adults. The challenge has been in imagining a way to minister effectively to a group of people who not only range in age from 18-35, but are currently in many different phases of life; students, young professionals, single, married and young parents. Much of this year was spent in consultation with people in our own diocese as well as with those in other dioceses to envision a way forward. We’ve decided that the heart of the young adult ministry will centre around a small group dynamic that will run quarterly, with new groups being established each quarter. Groups will consist of 6-8 young adults, who will gather around a shared interest (jogging, movies, cooking etc.) AND have a faith focus which allows group members to grow in their relationship with God and community. Groups will launch in January.

Adjusting the focus of

“MyGen” (short for “My Generation”) is our diocesan youth rally. It runs every year in March for high school students from all over the Archdiocese. www.mygenerally.ca This year we decided to take a different approach in our promotions by identifying adults in our communities who, while perhaps not youth ministers, liked kids, had some ability to gather them and were willing to go on a weekend adventure with them! We were so excited to work with teachers, principals, chaplains, parish workers, catechists and volunteers. And then 10 days before MyGen, the province went into lock-down, which resulted in the cancellation of MyGen 2020. We look forward to revisiting these connections as we revamp MyGen to fit within our new reality!!



Art at camp



Camps in Limbo

This year was a completely unique year for our Catholic Camps. Some managed to still gather with a skeleton staff to do some in-depth staff training, some were able to undertake some significant renovations and some took a much-needed reprieve to reset. Our own diocesan leadership camp for teens which is held every August operated on a “day-camp” basis and was by all accounts very successful.

continued...

Youth Ministry cont'd



Ministering Online

Ministering to young people without the ability to gather together brings with it a host of challenges, to say the least. However, it comes with its unique gifts as well. As we moved our retreats, workshops, and small groups online, it became evident that the Holy Spirit can indeed work online as well!

Cross Canada Conversations

In November, at the request of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB), several young people from our Archdiocese participated in conversations on faith and their experiences within the Church alongside young people from all over Western Canada. In total, 16 different conversations broken into three age categories (12-15, 16-19, 20-24) took place in which representatives from the CCCB were able to listen earnestly to the voices of our young people. Our diocese was well represented in this initiative and one of the fruits of it has been some very exciting conversations and connections beginning to emerge in our own diocese.

The Diocese Tonight

The Diocese Tonight is a virtual family gathering. It came to life at the height of lock-down, as we sought ways to still feel connected to one another as a greater faith community. The 1st episode aired mid June. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dIO9rYXSaDs> There have been 3 episodes thus far and they have been very well received. This one hour "broadcast" features guest speakers, a greeting from our bishop, the opportunity to sing and pray together, and a feature on "good news" stories from our communities. The episodes are produced quarterly and can be found on the Archdiocese of Regina YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/ArchdioceseRegina>



Samaritan Project

The Youth Ministry Office was honoured to coordinate "The Samaritan Project" which launched at the start of the pandemic to offer practical support to those who were unable to leave their homes. The response from volunteers was amazing with close to 100 people offering to serve as needed. It was a great witness and we think it has lots of possibilities for continued initiatives in the future.

In the end, 2020 was a year that none of us could have anticipated. Our ministry has had to look drastically different, and we were all forced to shift quickly. The fact that we are still standing, is a testament to some amazing leaders and disciples whom we have been privileged to serve with. As we move into a new year, the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry are confident that the Holy Spirit will continue to provide us with opportunities to serve God's young people more faithfully and more creatively.

Vocations

by **Father Parker Love, Vocations Director**

The Gospel of St Matthew ends with the call that Jesus makes to His eleven closest disciples: “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.”

These words speak to the heart of the Christian message; that we, all of us, are called to go out of our comfort zones and make disciples of nations by sharing our relationship with Christ with the people of the world.

I think that is what the Church means when she speaks about Vocations, the gift of sharing Christ in the world.

Of course, each of us is called to that in our own particular way. In the year 2020, the Archdiocese of Regina was able to support three men in taking concrete steps towards living their vocations in the fullest way that Christ calls them.

On August 15, 2020 at Holy Rosary Cathedral, Dcn Christopher Juchacz and Dcn Andrew Lindenbach were ordained to the Priesthood. Like all things in 2020, this celebration looked much different than expected because of the Covid-19 pandemic, but neither man was deterred by that, and they remained eager to serve the Lord.



On June 19, 2020 at Resurrection Parish, Christian Lindenbach was ordained to the Diaconate. Although like the later Priestly Ordinations, the numbers were right, the Holy Spirit was undeniably present as this man made his first concrete step in the sacrament of Holy Orders towards Priesthood.

The future of the Archdiocese of Regina is, of course, ultimately in the hands of God, but like all things, He asks us to participate in His great work. The Church needs vocations: vocations to the Priesthood, vocations to the Religious life, and the great gift of each of us living our vocation to holiness in our own lives. Ask yourself and the young people in your life: “are you doing what God is asking you to do?” And if you’re not sure, find out and work towards it!

God bless you all.

Ecumenical & Interfaith Relations

by Nicholas Jesson, Ecumenical Officer

Ecumenical and interfaith work is always about relationships. We build relationships by meeting with leaders of other faith communities for coffee and discussion. Sometimes we meet to find ways to work together on a shared project in social justice, education, or prayer together. Central to all of this work is a solid commitment to dialogue and encounter. When the pandemic caused us to move online, it was feared that these relationships would be impeded, but the opposite appears to have happened. In many ways, 2020 was a banner year for ecumenical and interfaith relations in the Archdiocese.



[Faith Leaders' Working Group on Pandemic Guidelines](#): An early concern of the faith communities was the lack of health guidelines for places of worship. I convened over 30 leaders of the major faith traditions: Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, Baha'i, Buddhist, Mormon, and Unitarian. The group agreed to promote health and safety in our facilities and request a liaison with the health officials or senior government officials. A working group of at first eight and later 12 leaders has met with government liaisons quite frequently through the pandemic to develop and revise the pandemic guidelines for places of worship. This project has established strong respect and appreciation between these faith leaders. There are now plans to establish a permanent Council of Faith Leaders to continue liaison with the government on other matters of public policy.

The [Western Canadian ecumenical officers'](#) gathering was unable to be held in the fall of 2020, so I convened these colleagues for a bi-weekly meeting on Zoom, where we have continued to share ideas and concerns about local ecumenical and interfaith relations. In this online format, we have extended an invitation to ecumenical officers from Ontario to join us. With this expanded group, we have had rich discussions about ecumenical aspects of social justice, reconciliation, evangelism, Catholic-Jewish and Catholic-Muslim relations, ecumenical education, and the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

The new [LAURC Covenant](#) was signed in April 2020 by the ten bishops of Saskatchewan serving the Anglican, ELCIC Lutheran, Ukrainian Catholic, and Roman Catholic churches. The Covenant has been in development for a few years as an expansion of the 2011 covenant between the Archdiocese and the Anglican Diocese of Qu'Appelle. The bishops decided that the pandemic was an optimum time to make further commitments to work together. It is hoped that this LAURC Covenant will be a sign of hope to our churches across Saskatchewan.

The [Ecumenical Stewardship Committee](#) was formed in the spirit of the new LAURC Covenant. Originally planning for a conference in fall 2020, the committee pivoted to an online format and has since held 19 sessions over spring and fall of 2020 and spring 2021. The focus of the sessions has included classical stewardship concerns such as tithing, planned giving, and estate planning to broader questions about self-care and prayer. A special session on Creation Care was part of our reflection on the Season of Creation in September.

In January 2020, parishes across the Archdiocese participated in local services for the annual [Week of Prayer for Christian Unity](#). During May 2020, I offered five sessions on basic Catholic ecumenism, including sessions on Pope Francis and Christian Unity, our common baptism, ecumenical principles from Vatican II, and two sessions on the historic World Council of Churches text *The Church: Towards a Common Vision*.

In August 2020, I was elected President of [Multi-Faith Saskatchewan](#), the provincial umbrella group for multifaith and interfaith groups. I am working to introduce three priorities to our multifaith work: 1) dialogue and encounter; 2) anti-racism, anti-Semitism, and anti-Islamophobia education; and 3) religious liberty.

Discussions with Salt+Light Media developed in May 2020 into [a new blog on ecumenism](#). Together with my colleagues Julien Hammond (Edmonton) and Sr. Donna Geernaert (Halifax), we have produced a monthly blog on ecumenical topics entitled *One Body*. It is hoped that this blog will host ecumenical guests in future to engage in dialogue on cutting-edge ecumenical issues.

I continue to be involved with leading the local [KAIROS](#) chapter. This ecumenical social justice network has focused locally on climate justice and reconciliation and will be developing a working group on poverty.

Archbishop's Appeal

ARCHBISHOP'S
appeal ... at a glance

How did we do in 2020?

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise. Psalm 95:2

\$1,310,918
total amount received

4,100 
donors

 **25**
religious orders gave in 2020



Where are you?

Are you ready for
the next level?

Thank YOU!

Your generosity allows us to continue doing the
work we do for our church and our community.
It's a gift and a blessing!

giving levels 

donors per level	giving level	total amount received	average gift per level
1	> \$100K	\$150,000	\$150,000
5	\$10K - \$99K	\$102,000	\$20,400
216	\$1K - \$9,999	\$368,298	\$1,705
371	\$500 - \$999	\$211,066	\$569
1067	\$200 - \$499	\$284,384	\$267
1230	\$100 - \$199	\$136,592	\$111
1210	< \$100	\$49,538	\$41

Covid year 2020 stats

 **1%**
higher total
received than 2019

18 
parishes met
their goal

210 
new donors

 **22%**
of donors increased gift

 **18%**
of donors
decreased gift

42% 
of donors gave
at same level

New in 2020

He has made everything beautiful in its time.
Ecclesiastes 3:11


  **252** 
e-newsletter subscribers

 
more connections
with donors

more online donors
<https://archregina.sk.ca/giving>

  
more social media posts

more giving options
annualappeal@archregina.sk.ca

 e-Transfer

Archbishop's Appeal cont'd

... more about 2020

Hope in Every Season

we found hope despite the coronavirus pandemic

8 cities/towns & Parishes/Homes filmed



Fort Qu'Appelle



Weyburn



Our Lady of Seven Sorrows
Lampman



St. Mary Grayson



St. Gerard Yorkton



Christ the King Regina



St-Jean Baptiste Regina

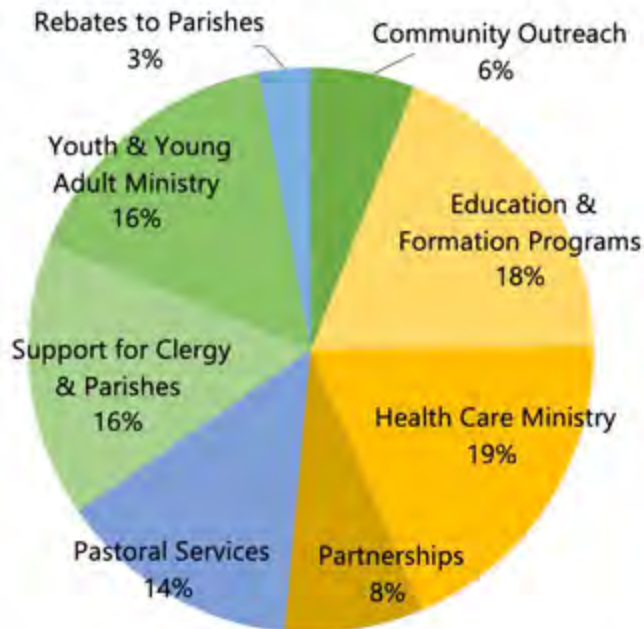


St. Peter Regina

Thank you for being our hosts

Merci d'être hôtes

How did we put your gifts to work?



Funds Raised in 2019	\$ 1,306,211
Less:	
Fundraising Costs (9%)	\$ 116,450
Administration Costs (4%)	\$ 55,280
Amount Available for Disbursement in 2020	\$ 1,134,481
Total Disbursements in 2020	\$ 1,134,481

2020 was a difficult year, but we have much to celebrate and be thankful for. Our deepest gratitude for the faithful support to Parish staff, Volunteers, Clergy and Archdiocesan staff. We couldn't have done this without you!

Your Archbishop's Appeal Team

Financial Officer's Report

By Rev. Mr. Barry Wood



It is my pleasure to present the following Summary Financial Statements for Fiscal 2020 and the Auditor Opinion on them.

We are grateful to the faithful of the Archdiocese of Regina who have shared their time, talents, and resources to build our faith community. We aim to be a careful steward of these gifts and to provide faithful and professional services to parishes and the community.

In particular, as Financial Officer of the Archdiocese, I am especially grateful to the following members of the Archdiocesan Finance Council.

Mr. Ron Kruzeniski — Chair

Ms. Gwen Herman

Mr. John Dipple

Mr. Gay Patrick — Vice Chair

Rev. Mr. Harper Boucher

Mrs. Karen Vey

Very Rev. Lorne Crozon

Rev. Brian Meredith

These members provide oversight and governance of the financial resources to the faithful of the Archdiocese, the Archbishop, and the Financial Officer. We would also like to express our gratitude to Mrs. Penny Malone and Mr. Dale Scrivens, who have both retired from the Finance Council this year, for their many years of service to the council.

Statement of Operations

In 2020, Archdiocesan revenues declined by \$704 thousand to \$3.83 million and expenditures declined by \$592 thousand to \$3.35 million.

After adjusting for the gain on the sale of property and unrealized investment gains, an excess of revenues over expenditures of \$355 thousand was incurred. Without the funds received from the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, the Archdiocese would have incurred a deficit of \$111 thousand.

The Archbishop's Appeal and assessments on the income of parishes accounted for 66% of the annual revenue from ongoing operations. The Canada Emergency Wage subsidy accounted for 13%. The coronavirus did not significantly affect our revenues during 2020 as parish assessments were based on their 2019 revenue and the appeal funds used were from the 2019 Archbishop's Appeal.

Use of deferred appeal revenue declined by \$200 thousand to \$1.278 million in 2020. These revenues were used to support Archdiocesan ministries - \$956 thousand, grants to other charities - \$169 thousand, and appeal administration and fundraising - \$153 thousand.

The diocesan church is called upon to provide pastoral services that aid and enhance the pastoral work of our parishes. Expenditures on these services declined in 2020 by \$58 thousand to \$1.056 million. This decline resulted from cancelled in person events for the Youth and Young Adult Ministry and Lay Formation Ministry. Hospital Chaplaincy, Pastoral Planning and Administration, Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Permanent Diaconate Formation, and Social Justice are the five largest pastoral activities and comprise 71% of the \$1.056 million in expenditures. The Archbishop's Appeal funded \$680 thousand of the pastoral services expenditures with Hospital Chaplaincy, Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Permanent Diaconate Formation, and Social Justice receiving \$500 thousand of this funding.

Ministry and Services expenditures of \$924 thousand decreased by \$370 thousand. The social assistance needs of priests, education of priests and seminarians and provision of international priests comprise 63% of the expenditures. Special Projects expenditures decreased by \$160 thousand in 2020. 2019 had included costs associated with selling Martha House of \$70 thousand as well as special events and projects of \$58 thousand. Special events were unable to be held or were moved to a virtual platform due to COVID restrictions in 2020. Education of Priests and Seminarian expenses declined by \$130,000 due to fewer seminarians in formation and the cancelled in person clergy retreat and study week. Counselling support for clergy declined by \$60, reducing the Support of Priests and Parishes expense. The Archbishop's Appeal funded \$286 thousand of the ministry and services expenditures.

continued...

Financial Officer's Report cont'd

The Chancery and Administrative expenses were \$885 thousand in 2020 representing a decrease of \$50 thousand from 2019. A decline in the Canadian Council of Catholic Bishops assessment accounted for \$14 thousand of the decrease. In 2019 there was a very gifted and talented priest that provided special project assistance to the Archbishop until the clergy moves were made in August 2019 and he was given a parish assignment. This accounted for the remainder of the decrease from 2019.

Expenses by object varied from 2019 in the following ways:

- Personnel expenses decreased by \$51 thousand to \$1.8 million as a result of reduced staffing.
- Occupancy expenses of \$320 thousand were relatively unchanged from 2019.
- Office expenses decreased by \$25 thousand to \$314 thousand. Lower expenses were incurred in 2020 for photocopying and printing, Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops assessment, and purchases of computer equipment. Savings in these expenses were offset by increased charges for videography and live streaming events of \$19,000.
- Travel expenses decreased by \$174 thousand to \$90 thousand. COVID restrictions reduced the amount of travel within the diocese as well as to conferences and meetings outside the diocese and resulted in programs moving to a virtual platform. Meals and accommodations directly related to program offerings moving to a virtual platform accounted for \$72 thousand of the decrease. Lower mileage expenses due COVID caused restrictions accounted for \$50,000 of the decline. Airfare expenses declined by \$28,000 in 2020 with \$16,000 reflecting lower costs associated with international priests either arriving to serve in the Archdiocese or returning home because their service in the Archdiocese ended.
- Professional services declined by \$42 thousand to \$155 thousand. An increase in audit and legal fees of \$43 thousand from 2019 were offset by a reduction of other professional services of \$85 thousand. Other professional services had included \$70 thousand related to the sale of Martha House in 2019 as well as planning and design for work of \$25 thousand for the new pastoral centre and cathedral renovation projects. In 2020, professional services expenditures of \$24 thousand related to providing counselling services for victims of clergy sexual abuse, an increase of \$9 thousand from 2019.

Statement of Financial Position

The cash balance of \$6.96 million increased from 2019 by \$1 million. The cash balance includes net donations to the Rebuilding Our Church Capital Campaign of \$2.95 million, an increase of \$719 thousand from 2019. Concerns about the valuations being reached in the investment markets led to a change in the asset mix of investments and more funds being held in cash and cash equivalents.

The Archdiocese holds \$4.99 million in investments. Investments held to support the purposes of the restricted net assets accounts for \$3.1 million of the investments. The Archdiocesan share of the Apex Insurance Exchange net surplus is \$0.4 million. The remaining investments support the general activities of the Archdiocese.

Total Liabilities of \$6.533 million increased by \$881 thousand from last year. Deferred Rebuilding our Church contributions represent \$2.95 million of the total amount and \$719 thousand of the increase. Funds held for refugees and other Catholic entities account for \$1.3 million of the total liabilities and increased by \$100,000 from the prior year.

Net assets of the Archdiocese are \$8.4 million Unrestricted net assets of the Archdiocese are \$1.979 million and are available to support the general operating purposes of the Archdiocese. Internally. Investments in property are \$0.8 million and restricted funds total \$5.6 million.

**Archiepiscopal Corporation of Regina
Pastoral & Chancery Office
Summary Financial Statements
December 31, 2020**



BERGER CAVAN GROUP
Chartered Professional Accountants and Business Advisors

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Regina, SK S4P 2K5
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Email: info@bogllp.ca

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS
ON THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**To the Archbishop of:
Archiepiscopal Corporation of Regina**

Opinion

The accompanying summary financial statements, which comprise the summary statement of financial position as at December 31, 2020, summary statement of operations, summary statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and related notes are derived from the audited financial statements of the Archiepiscopal Corporation of Regina – Pastoral & Chancery Office for the year ended December 31, 2020. In common with many not-for-profit organizations, we expressed a qualified opinion in our report dated April 23, 2021, related to donations and fundraising activities, the completeness of which are not susceptible to satisfactory audit verification.

In our opinion, the summary financial statements derived from the audited financial statements of the Archiepiscopal Corporation of Regina – Pastoral & Chancery Office for the year ended December 31, 2020 are a fair summary of those financial statements on the basis of the criteria described in Note 1.

Summary Financial Statements

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures present in the audited financial statements which have been prepared in accordance with the basis of accounting as described in notes 2 and 3. Reading the summary financial statements, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements of the Archiepiscopal Corporation of Regina – Pastoral & Chancery Office.

Management's Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of a summary of the audited financial statements in accordance with the criteria described in Note 1.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the summary financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Canadian Auditing Standard (CAS) 810, "Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements".

Emphasis of Matter

We draw attention to Notes 2 and 3 to the summary financial statements, which describe the basis of accounting used in the preparation of the audited financial statements from which these summary statements have been derived and the significant differences between the accounting policies used and Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. The audited financial statements were prepared for the information of the Archbishop, internal management, and for income tax filing purposes. As a result, these summary financial statements derived from the audited financial statements may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

April 23, 2021
Regina, Canada

ISERGER CANADIAN GROUP LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants

Archiepiscopal Corporation of Regina – Pastoral & Chancery Office
Summary Statement of Operations

For the year ended December 31,
2020**2019****Revenues**

Diocesan appeal (Note 4)	\$ 1,277,762	\$ 1,477,784
Diocesan assessments	1,167,198	1,165,423
Grants and subsidies	539,474	128,594
Donations and bequests	323,090	394,679
Recoveries	272,855	406,352
Unrealized investment gain	90,779	266,979
Investment income	79,420	232,385
Other income	48,240	84,607
Gain on sale of property	34,909	380,689

3,833,727**4,537,492****Expenditures (Note 5)**

Appeal costs	152,821	171,730
Appeal grants and rebates	168,603	210,973
Chancery and administration	885,449	935,717
Marriage Tribunal	140,749	142,963
Ministry and services	923,677	1,294,100
Pastoral services	1,056,391	1,114,448
Rental and other	24,891	74,494

3,352,581**3,944,425****Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures****\$ 481,146****\$ 593,067**

Archiepiscopal Corporation of Regina – Pastoral & Chancery Office
Summary Statement of Financial Position

As at December 31, 2020 2019

Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 6,956,844	\$ 5,952,395
Accounts receivable	736,739	704,575
Prepaid expenses	21,738	27,116
Investments	4,985,268	4,833,601
Loans receivable	113,862	34,039
Invested in property	817,353	817,353
Trust assets	1,293,031	1,193,652

Total Assets **\$ 14,924,835** **\$ 13,562,731**

Liabilities

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 404,038	\$ 353,712
Deferred contributions	89,541	92,067
Deferred appeal contributions (Note 4)	1,156,162	1,134,481
Deferred <i>Rebuilding our Church</i> contributions	2,947,050	2,227,718
Insurance account	643,009	650,243
Trust liabilities	1,293,031	1,193,652

Total Liabilities **\$ 6,532,831** **\$ 5,651,873**

Net Assets

Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 1,978,555	\$ 1,495,306
Invested in Property	817,353	817,353
Externally Restricted Net Assets	324,736	323,827
Internally Restricted Net Assets	5,271,360	5,274,372

Total Net Assets **\$ 8,392,004** **\$ 7,910,858**

Total Liabilities and Net Assets **\$ 14,924,835** **\$ 13,562,731**

Recommended to the Archbishop for approval on behalf of the Finance Council.



Financial Officer



Chair, Finance Council

Archiepiscopal Corporation of Regina – Pastoral & Chancery Office
Summary Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended December 31,	2020	2019
Cash flows (for) operating activities	\$ 953,866	\$ 1,892,265
Cash flows from (for) investing activities	\$ 50,583	\$ 1,674,630
<hr/>		
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,004,449	\$ 3,566,895
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	\$ 5,952,395	\$ 2,385,500
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Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	\$ 6,956,844	\$ 5,952,395
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Cash and cash equivalents at end of year are comprised of:		
Cash	\$ 6,196,878	\$ 5,501,683
Cash equivalents	759,966	450,712
<hr/>		
	\$ 6,956,844	\$ 5,952,395
<hr/>		

Archiepiscopal Corporation of Regina – Pastoral & Chancery Office

Notes to Summary Financial Statements

December 31, 2020

1. Preparation of Summary Financial Statements

The summary financial statements are derived from the audited financial statements, prepared in accordance with the basis of accounting as described in Notes 2 and 3, as at December 31, 2020 and December 31, 2019 and for the years then ended.

The preparation of these summary financial statements requires management to determine the information that needs to be reflected in them so that they are consistent in all material respects with, or represent a fair summary of, the audited financial statements.

Management prepared these summary financial statements using the following criteria:

- (a) The summary financial statements include a statement of financial position, statement of operations, and statement of cash flows;
- (b) information in the summary financial statements agrees with the related information in the audited financial statements;
- (c) major subtotals, totals and comparative information from the audited financial statements are included; and
- (d) the summary financial statements contain the information from the audited financial statements dealing with matters having a pervasive or otherwise significant effect on the summary financial statements.

2. Basis of preparation

The Pastoral & Chancery Office is under no obligation to issue any financial information except, as required by Canon Law, to render an account of receipts and expenditures to the Archdiocesan Finance Council. The audited financial statements from which these summary financial statements have been derived are therefore presented in a manner consistent with internal information needs only and differ materially from financial statements prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

The operations reported in the audited financial statements from which these summary financial statements have been derived relate to the day to day activities and provision of services by the Pastoral & Chancery Office. The master insurance program is accounted for in a separate account entitled "Insurance account" on the statement of financial position.

December 31, 2020

2. Basis of Preparation (Continued)

These financial statements do not include the activities of the following:

- Inter-Parochial Sharing Fund
- Father Len Sullivan Liturgical Advancement Fund
- Priests' Retirement Plan

The Pastoral & Chancery office is related to the Roman Catholic Parishes governed by the Archdiocese of Regina by virtue of common control by the Archbishop of Regina. The activities and accounts of these Parishes are not consolidated in the audited financial statements from which these summary financial statements have been derived.

3. Significant accounting policies

The audited financial statements from which these summary financial statements have been derived differ materially from Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, including:

- Except for certain land and buildings, property and equipment are fully charged to operations at acquisition. Certain land and buildings, although capitalized, are not amortized.

4. Diocesan Appeal

Diocesan appeal revenues are generally collected in the last few months of each year, but are not recognized in revenue until the following year when the corresponding expenses to which they relate are incurred. A portion of the current year appeal revenues are recognized immediately to offset expenditures incurred to administer the current year's appeal campaign.

Notes to Summary Financial Statements

December 31, 2020

5. Description of Expenditures

Provided below is a further breakdown of the types of expenses contained within the major expenditure categories on the Summary Statement of Operations:

- (a) Appeal costs – Includes Fundraising Costs and Administration Costs of the Appeal.
- (b) Appeal grants and rebates - Includes Rebates to Parishes and Grants and Donations
- (c) Ministry and services - Includes Education of Priests and Seminarians, Assistance to Parishes and Priests (including costs associated with recruitment and retention of international priests), Visitation House, Council of Priests, Special Projects, Protocol Office, Archdiocesan Pastoral Council, Ecumenism, Personnel Support, Vocation Awareness, Archdiocesan Council for Truth and Reconciliation, Spiritual Direction, Liturgy, Archdiocesan Pastoral Council and Stewardship.
- (d) Pastoral services - Includes Youth & Young Adult, Health Care, Lay Ministries Formation, Permanent Diaconate, Pastoral -General, Communication, Native Ministry — First Nations, Social Justice, Aboriginal Non-Aboriginal Relations Community, Catechesis, Resource Centre, French Pastoral and Indigenous Peoples Ministry.
- (e) Chancery and administration - Includes Finance & Administration, General Administration, Archbishop's Office, Diocesan Centre, Archives and Archbishop's Residence.



Archdiocese of Regina

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