



ARCHDIOCESE OF  
*Regina*

**2023 Annual Report**

## Dear Faithful of the Archdiocese of Regina,



In Jesus' farewell discourse to his disciples, the Lord prays for his disciples, who will remain in the world, but who "do not belong to the world" (Jn. 17: 14). In his letter to the Romans, St. Paul notes something similar, counseling: "Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God."

The Second Vatican Council, reflecting upon the call to be in but not of the world, picked up on a phrase that Jesus uses, speaking of interpreting 'the signs of the times' (Mt. 16:3). The Council summoned the Church to engage with the world, recognizing the developments - positive and negative - and events which give specific shape to this time in history and the struggles and possibilities of humanity in the here and now. It noted that "the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties" of the present, especially those of the poor and

afflicted, are to be the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the Church (Gaudium et Spes, 1).

When you read through this annual report, I think you will see and hear our diocesan church's efforts and challenges in responding to the signs of the times, and in striving to bring the hope and joy of the Gospel to the world around us. We have become a more international and multi-cultural society than ever before, and even our small towns and rural parishes bring together people of many different nationalities. We have the opportunity to foster a meeting of cultures and traditions and to learn and grow through those encounters. Of course our society also faces and presents us with significant challenges: polarization and deep divisions, both political and in the church; the number of people who carry heavy stress and navigate mental health issues; tragic international conflicts which impact us even here; tens of millions of refugees and displaced peoples; an increasing secularism which makes it increasingly difficult to pass on the riches of our faith traditions; the need for accountability, transparency and integrity in leadership and the exercise of authority; the devaluing of human life on many fronts; the breakdown of structures of meaning which served as the basis for communities and the building up of the common good.

In the reports included here, you will see echoes of many of these challenges, and humble efforts to respond. One overarching theme has to do with the Synod on Synodality, and the summons to be a Church that walks together as a community, and walks together with others who are hurting, struggling, or disenfranchised. In 2023 the first of two month-long gatherings took place in Rome, bringing together people from around the world to discern how the Lord is calling us to walk together at this time in history.

There were external events that marked the year for us, including the move of our pastoral offices to a temporary location on Scarth Street; an extensive effort to help us take steps to being more trauma-informed through a series of workshops presented to many groups in the diocese (likely the most comprehensive single adult educational effort in the history of the Archdiocese); a change in staff at the diocesan archives; a significant number of clergy moves that impacted many parishes; ongoing initiatives for truth and reconciliation; ongoing work with our capital campaign and Cathedral renovations; and financial challenges facing a number of parishes, worsened by a huge increase in insurance costs for church properties.

I had a personal challenge which impacted my own ministry, as I fell getting off a bus at the end of our diocesan mission trip to Cuernavaca, Mexico, and broke my hip. Emergency surgery was a real life-saver, but the process of recovery was slow and I ended 2023 feeling like my body had aged significantly more than a year in 2023! But God is faithful, and the staff, clergy, and an amazing team of volunteers have kept us moving forward in good directions.

I would like to express profound gratitude to our Archdiocesan staff, and to the clergy, religious, and laypeople of the parishes of the Archdiocese, for all that you do to reach out to others, to live the Gospel and to strive to bring healing and hope, reconciliation and joy. I am humbled by and grateful for the creative and faithful ministries and initiatives which are reflected in this report, and hope you will have time to read it and find resonances of what you experienced in the year 2023. Rich blessings!

Yours in Christ,



+Donald Bolen  
Archbishop of Regina



# Department of Pastoral Services

by Lisa Polk, Director of Pastoral Services

2023 was marked by both challenges and triumphs, as we navigated through transitions, embraced new initiatives, and continued our commitment to serving the spiritual needs of our archdiocesan community.

In 2023, we settled into our new Pastoral Centre located in downtown Regina. This move has provided us with a renewed sense of purpose and accessibility, allowing us to better serve the needs of our community in a central and welcoming location.



*Lisa Canning*

In September, our ArchRegina Congress carried the theme Abundant Trust, Embracing God's Generosity, and featured guest speaker, Lisa Canning. With vulnerability, Lisa shared her personal story of surrender and the many ways she and her family place their trust in God.

I acknowledge the departure of Susan Klein, our esteemed Archivist, who dedicated years of service to preserving the rich history of our Archdiocese. Susan's passion for archiving have left an indelible mark, and she will be missed. We extend our heartfelt thanks to her for her invaluable contributions and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

I extend a warm welcome to Rae Horsman, who will now be overseeing the Archives. Rae brings with her a wealth of experience and a deep appreciation for the significance of our archival work. We look forward to her leadership as we continue to create policies and procedures that safeguard and celebrate our history in appropriate ways.

We were deeply saddened by the passing of David Smith, a hard-working member of our team who served diligently in the marriage tribunal. He will be remembered fondly.

Recognizing the importance of fostering a trauma-informed approach in our work and ministries, our staff participated in workshops aimed at equipping us with necessary tools to recognize trauma. There is more work to do in the area of being a trauma-informed organization and these workshops were an important foundation for us.

We are proud to have sponsored several projects through the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund (IRF), furthering our commitment to reconciliation and solidarity with Indigenous peoples.

I extend my sincere gratitude to the dedicated staff of the Pastoral Services Department for their unwavering commitment and tireless efforts in fulfilling their ministries. Your passion, resilience, and compassion are the driving force behind our collective mission, and I am immensely grateful for your invaluable contributions. As I reflect on the past year and look ahead to the opportunities and challenges that await us, let us remain steadfast in our commitment to serving with prayer, love, compassion, and humility. Together, let us continue to build a community rooted in faith, justice, and solidarity.

# We Are Here to Serve You

(list as of June 1, 2024)

Adewale, Muyiwa.....	Refugee Support
Ainemon, Rev. Amédée Guy.....	Personnel
Andree, Rev. Ron.....	Liturgy
Argerami, Jose.....	Development Office Associate
Barr, Robert.....	Catechesis Support
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
Cascanette, Brianne.....	Development Office Associate
Feist, Sr. Bernadette.....	Indigenous Relations
Fitzgerald, Jerry.....	Health Care Chaplaincy
Gorospe, Sr. Amelia SIHM.....	Marriage Tribunal
Gurash, Rev. Mr. Eric.....	Director of Communications and Evangelization
Gurash, Melissa.....	Pastoral Services and Archbishop's Office Administrative Support
Hilbig, Theresa.....	Visitation House
Holtlander, Jennifer.....	Health Care Chaplaincy
Horsman, Rae.....	Archives
Jesson, Nicholas.....	Ecumenism & Interfaith Relations
Kuntz, Braden.....	Youth Ministry and Archbishop's Office Administrative Support
Letourneau, Sr. RéAnne.....	Indigenous Relations
Lindenbach, Fr. Christian.....	Assistant to the Archbishop
Lipoth, James.....	Director of Development
Love, Rev. Parker.....	Director of Vocations
Luka, Lukose.....	Finance
Meredith, Very Rev. Brian.....	Vicar General
Miller, Marlene.....	Spiritual Direction
Moser, Barb.....	Pastoral Services Administrative Support
Nguyen, Very Rev. Thomas.....	Judicial Vicar
Okai, Rev. J.B.....	Health Care Chaplaincy
Owolagba, Very Rev. James.....	Chancellor
Polk, Lisa.....	Director of Pastoral Services and Operations
Rink, Joan.....	Health Care Chaplaincy
Salkeld, Brett.....	Theologian and Diaconal Formation
Toupin, Tashia.....	Social Justice Coordinator
Trainor, Amanda.....	Archbishop's Office Administrative Support
Walsh, Pamela.....	Victims' Services and Advocacy
Wood, Rev. Mr. Barry.....	Financial Officer
Ziegler, Karen.....	Spiritual Direction

# Communications and Evangelization

by Deacon Eric Gurash, Director of Communications and Evangelization



Throughout 2023, this department, which encompasses multiple files, has been actively engaged in various initiatives aimed at enhancing communication, fostering spiritual growth, and expanding our outreach within the community.

## Communications:

On the communications front, more than 400 individuals received a variety of Lenten reflections and activities through our annual RENEW Lent Newsletter which included content from Matthew Kelly's "Best Lent Ever" series. This engagement has deepened the spiritual experience for many during the Lenten season. Additionally, 2023 saw the establishment of a diocese-wide Flocknote network open to parishes and groups throughout the Archdiocese. By the end of 2023 this network involved a total of nine parishes and ministry groups providing them access to this top-notch communication tool at a significant discount.

In terms of communications outreach, our Christmas messages shared through local media channels have continued to foster connections with communities across Southern Saskatchewan. Our Advent Journey email newsletter, which this year included a featured reflection from our permanent with deacons, reached over 200 subscribers both in our Archdiocese and from around the world.

## The Lay Formation Program:



**FAITH**  
Sharing the Joy  
of the Gospel



*Year 3 class and team*

The Lay Formation Program was delighted to welcome three new participants in the fall of 2023 adding depth and diversity to our formation community. Simultaneously, we have enjoyed being able to offer a new auditing option, with several lay people taking advantage of select classes including local RCSD teachers exploring the possibility of accessing classes for their professional development.

The fall also saw the roll-out of a new core curriculum that ensures participants receive comprehensive formation covering essentials like scripture, sacraments, and the spiritual life, while remaining adaptable to the changing parish and cultural landscape.

## Evangelization and Outreach:

A major evangelization and outreach event was held at Holy Rosary Cathedral during the 32nd Annual Cathedral Arts Festival. This afternoon of public Eucharistic adoration, music, and prayer attracted more than 1200 visitors from all walks of life as volunteers circulated through the street fair offering prayer candles and an invitation to spend time in prayer to passersby. The event provided an opportunity for individuals to light candles and pray for themselves or their loved ones while visiting the renowned festival's namesake cathedral. In addition to prayer, attendees were awestruck by the Cathedral's stained glass, statues, and artwork.

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## Office of Communications and Evangelization (cont'd)



*Holy Rosary Cathedral's doors were opened to visitors during the Cathedral Village Arts Festival*

### Mental Health Ministry:

Discussions surrounding the need for a focus on mental health ministry began in October. Mental Health was the focus of an October conference held by CHAS in Saskatoon. A pre-conference meeting with Deacon Ed Shoener from the Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministries and Maricela Campa from the Office of Mental Health Ministry in the Diocese of Phoenix has helped to lay the groundwork for expanded mental health ministry initiatives in our diocese. These initiatives will focus on peer support, education, and cultivating parish cultures that encourage open and safe mental health discussions.



### Thinking Faith:



Our podcast, featuring Deacon Eric Gurash and Dr. Brett Salkeld and amazing guests, continues to be well received both locally and around the world. Top episodes of 2023 included:

'Hell And Evangelization' with Mark Hornbacher

<https://five.libsyn.com/show/episodes/view/25545804>

'Joy in the Gospel: Mental Health and Positive Psychology' with Deacon Eric Gurash

<https://five.libsyn.com/show/episodes/view/25861425>

'The Doctrine of Discovery is Not a Doctrine' with Archbishop Donald Bolen and Archbishop Richard Smith

<https://five.libsyn.com/show/episodes/view/26532954>

'A Demonology of the Internet' with Dr. Thomas P. Harmon

<https://five.libsyn.com/show/episodes/view/27820056>

Looking ahead, we are excited about the opportunities for further growth and impact in the new year. Our ongoing commitment to communication excellence, program development, and community engagement remains steadfast as we continue our mission of service and outreach.

## Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care

by Jennifer Holtslander

In the year of our Lord 2023, the Spiritual Care Ministries of the Archdiocese of Regina in the General Hospital, the Pasqua Hospital, and Wascana Rehabilitation Centre have been very active.

Over the course of the year, thousands of official visits have been made on behalf of the Archdiocese. Many more hallway connections and offers of support have connected patients and their families with the reminder that God is with them in the middle of their health journeys.

As a part of the Roman Catholic Spiritual Care team, we have listened attentively, and offered support to the sick and the dying as they seek to live faithfully. We have been part of facilitating many experiences of prayer, the sharing of Holy Communion, and arranging for other Sacraments, especially the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, at appropriate times. For those who appreciate the stories that numbers might tell and the people they represent, we have records for approximately 190 people who were anointed at the Pasqua Hospital, 50 at Wascana Rehabilitation Centre, and 170 at the General Hospital. Thank you to our patients and families for inviting us to be part of your sacred moments. Thank you to our priests who have said yes to offering the Sacraments in midst of so many other things.

Spiritual Care Relief Staff have helped to make it possible to continue to offer round the clock, all year long emergency supports for Catholic patients and families while in Hospital. We offer our deep gratitude to Cliff Geiger and Bonnie Thiele-Hunt for their sensitivity and generosity. We also offer our thanks to Joan Schwartz who has also offered attention and connection providing Holy Communion on some Sundays at the Pasqua Hospital.

At Wascana Rehabilitation Centre, the fall of 2023 saw the return of regular gatherings for Mass and Liturgies of the Word. Celebrating Mass regularly in a long-term care and rehabilitation facility takes an extended team of priests, volunteers, and participants. Many thanks to each one who joins the circle to celebrate the Mass and to pray and praise in the Liturgies of the Word.

In 2023, Spiritual Care Ministries also were graced with the involvement of Deacons-in-Formation. Ken Fahlman and Martin Kondziewski shared a portion of their formation process with us in hospital visits. Their hearts for ministry and willingness to listen benefitted patients and families, and our shared conversations helped to encourage the ongoing work of Spiritual Care.

Moving through 2024 will include shifts and changes. As we navigate what the next year will bring, we would appreciate your prayers. If you are someone who has a calling toward Spiritual Care Ministries and you would be interested in volunteering, we would be grateful to hear from you.

As always, the ministry of Spiritual Care is supported by the Archbishop's Appeal. If you have received any benefits from our work, first offer your praise to our good God, and second, consider a gift to the Archbishop's Appeal. Each one's gifts of time, talent, and treasure, both large and small, given toward this work are bearing fruit. Thank you.



Joan Rink, Jerry Fitzgerald and Jennifer Holtslander

## Spiritual Direction

by Karen Ziegler



During 2023, each spiritual director journeyed with folks who sought them out. Directors continue to support those who need support through post covid and the return to regular flu season while dealing with past fears and isolation brought on by the pandemic. A group of directors continue to do training with three directors to give the spiritual exercises. Directors give retreats when asked during various times of the year. All directors nourish their own spiritual growth through further education, see their own spiritual director and seek personal supervision during the year, as needed.

In 2023 the spiritual directors of the Archdiocese of Regina met virtually for faith sharing sessions on a bi-monthly basis. These sessions are a wonderful opportunity for directors to come together to support each other, share our faith and strengthen us for the ministry of spiritual direction.

The spiritual directors gathered virtually in February, 2023 for a session entitled Early Dementia, Spiritual Direction, facilitated by Cathy Davis, a social worker who provides assessment and support to clients with dementia and memory loss. Cathy led the directors through the nature of dementia in general then left us with tools that we could use to journey with people living with dementia and with their care givers.

In June, three spiritual directors completed a one-year Ignatian Spiritual Exercises training program led by Dennis and Karen Ziegler, Pat Laturnas and June Krogan. Lorraine Nichol, Denise Esch and Carlene Douglas are now ready and eager to lead people through these Exercises to help them deepen their relationship with God.

In June the spiritual directors met for a year-end in-person (and Zoom) social gathering. We began with prayer to recall the past year of ministry then enjoyed socializing with a potluck lunch.

In September, spiritual directors met at Holy Child Parish in person and via Zoom, for a Day of Discernment. Other directors who could not attend prayed with the discernment material ahead of time and sent their feedback in to be prayerfully included with all the directors' responses. Together we prayed and listened to the Holy Spirit about whether or not we are called to host another Spiritual Direction Formation Program. It was a wonderful day! Our next step was to seek support and direction from the Archdiocese.

Karen Ziegler and Marlene Miller met with Lisa Polk, Director of Pastoral Services, who gave us the go-ahead to proceed with another Spiritual Direction Formation Program. We are so grateful to the Holy Spirit for this opportunity and we accept and rise to the tasks ahead.

In October, 12 Spiritual Directors and 2 Lutheran pastors attended an educational session "Gender Identity and Pastoral Care of those identifying as LGBTQ+" presented by Dr. Brett Salkeld from the Archdiocese of Regina. Brett gave an excellent teaching and instruction that was well received by all who attended.

## Organization Facilitation Committee

by Rev. Brian Meredith



The Organization Facilitation Committee is responsible for assisting parishes in the task of working through various issues in respectful, healing, and life-giving ways. When issues in a parish are awkward, confusing, or difficult, the committee can: listen to the people involved; facilitate discussions for discerning how to address the issues; propose possible processes (or agencies or individuals) for addressing the issues; and facilitate processes for addressing the issues.

The other members of the Committee are Lisa Polk, Sharon Bender, Leona Burkhart. A big thank you to each of these members!

Some areas in which our committee has been involved to provide direction, support, and accompaniment has been in helping the parishes to navigate through situations that negatively affect the unity within parish communities, helping parishes who are struggling to discern possible options to make their journey forward more feasible, and helping parishes who are considering the possible decommissioning of parish church buildings and the merging of parish areas.

Over the past couple of years, the Organization Facilitation Committee's role in addressing various areas has changed; however, our purpose has remained the same. We are deeply grateful that various issues have been able to be directed to Ombudspersons, various support people, the Personnel Committee, and various Archdiocesan Offices and committees. These people and groups have provided excellent guidance and support and are a tremendous blessing!

# Visitation House

by Theresa Hilbig



I would again like to extend my gratitude on behalf of all the women and children, volunteers and visitors for the support, prayers and love given to all who connect with Visitation House in any way.

We began 2023 with a vision of renewal of our Policies and Procedures. Also, our long-serving board members Henry Marcotte, Rita Hengen and Lynn Heyman retired. Their positions were of great importance, and losing these three wonderful members caused quite a space that needed to be filled.

We had a few offers and suggestions and finally were blessed to have two new members join our Board. They are Marc Simon, who is now in the position of Financial Manager and Jan Mansell, who has joined us as a Member-at-large and new weekly volunteer.

Fr. Don McNeil, who had been our Spiritual Director from 2002 until 2019, left this world to his eternal reward on January 26, 2023. We pray in gratitude for his loyal service and for the repose of his soul.

In January, I attended Part 2 of the informative Trauma Seminar. It was especially helpful for those of us who serve participants who have experienced multiple traumas in their lives.

Our participants come from varied backgrounds and from mostly complex family systems. Many women come to the centre requesting clothes, snacks, lunch and hygiene items, as well as a grocery bag of food. I welcome many women who appear to be suffering from addictions. They always indicate, either through conversations or written notes that they desire to have a better life and want help to change their present lifestyles. When requested, I give information about what a person might do to make these wishes a reality. From my knowledge and experience, until the removal of the addictive substances happens, hopes for a better life can be slim. I do, however, continue to offer the requested items in kindness and hope.

We see many people who are struggling with mental health issues. We offer a unique service to the women and children who come to the centre: a spiritual and homey atmosphere, shown in our choice of décor, our prayer circle and our offerings of prayerful items. We offer a safe and respectful atmosphere for women to visit with each other, to pray with each other. We continue to supply the daily newspaper, use of the telephone, coffee and tea, and a warm meal and snacks, every day we are open.

Women with children come often to the centre. For the most part, the children are respectful and grateful for the food, toys, clothes, crayons etc. that we offer them. Some women bring their grandchildren, of whom they are guardians. We support their commitment to bringing up their children's children.

Outside of the centre, I deliver groceries, clothes and hygiene items, and I have picked up and delivered prescribed medications when requested. A number of women use text to ask for advice and to update me on their lives. For example, a woman who was estranged from her mom sent me a picture of her new baby and asked that I send this on to her mom. I have also worked with mobile crisis and several shelters to find temporary lodging for women in crisis.



Visitation House has had continuous financial and material support from families, priests, schools and teachers, the ladies from Beta Sigma Phi, the CWL, and many young people who drop by with donations. Marlene Schnell again organized our major fundraiser: the Queen City Marathon and the Holy Soles of Visitation House, headed up by Fr. John Weckend. Brittany, along with her family, continued to help prepare and offer Christmas gifts to families. I wish I could list every person who has supported us! We are so grateful for every single donation we receive!

Some people bring prepared food, snacks and squares on a regular basis. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts! Your help is always welcomed and appreciated! May God continue to abundantly bless you!

When I reflect on whether we are necessary, viable, and supported, I believe the answer is YES! As long as we are receiving women in need and being supported financially, I believe the Holy Spirit continues to guide our work. We need to be a place for those that want what we have to offer.

# Archdiocesan Theologian & Permanent Diaconate

by Dr. Brett Salkeld

## Permanent Diaconate

2023 was the last full year of diaconate formation for our two candidates, Ken Fahlman and Martin Kondzieleski, as they are set for ordination in June of 2024. Our inability to meet in person during long stretches of the pandemic extended our timeline, so I tease Ken and Martin that they are in their fifth year of a 4-year program.



Ken and Martin were installed as acolytes in June of 2023. Ken received the rite of candidacy in December of 2023 in his home parish of St. Joseph's in Balgonie with Martin set to follow at Holy Cross in early 2024. Another important part of their formation in 2023 was their pastoral placements, where they worked with our hospital chaplains, Jerry Fitzgerald and Jennifer Holtslander.

As in previous years, we were delighted to study, eat, and pray with the members of our lay formation program on our formation weekends at Campion College and to be joined by our brothers Nicholas Blom and Paul Wheeler from the Diocese of Saskatoon. It is a blessing to work with such great partners.

## Archdiocesan Theologian



Beyond running our diaconate formation program, I am happy to be able to contribute in other ways to the life of our local Church and the universal Church through channels like teaching, writing, speaking, and podcasting.

Our weekly Archdiocesan podcast "Thinking Faith!" (which I cohost with Deacon Eric Gurash) continues to be a fun and fruitful ministry. One highlight: in the spring of 2023, I did a Q & A session with the Conquest Boys' Club at St. Anne's parish. They had many more questions than we had time for, so I took a basket full of their questions back to the studio. Deacon Eric and I recorded several podcasts answering these questions throughout 2023, and there are more to come in 2024. I continue to meet people who say how much they enjoy these episodes in particular. Check them out and you'll be impressed by the quality of the questions from these young men.

I continue on as director of the Saskatchewan cohort of Newman Theological College's Masters in Religious Education. In the fall of 2023, our first Regina cohort in this program graduated! I spent much of 2023, then, recruiting teachers for the next cohort. It took a lot of work, but we were eventually able to confirm a new cohort would begin in the Winter of 2024.

Also, in February 2023, I was able to see the publication of my most recent book, *Educating for Eternity: A Teacher's Companion for Making Every Class Catholic*. After travelling to Dallas, Texas in April to present at the National Catholic Education Association's annual conference and Notre Dame University in South Bend, Indiana in June, I began to receive invitations to address teachers across North America for professional development days and retreats. I am very grateful to the Archdiocese for the flexibility to pursue this ministry.

I also continued to serve the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops as a representative on the national Roman Catholic – Evangelical Dialogue in 2023. We even hosted one dialogue meeting in Regina in June on the question of Truth and Reconciliation. I am grateful for the help and support of colleagues like Nicholas Jesson and Sr. ReAnne Letourneau for the success of this meeting.

2023 also saw the launch of my new monthly column, *Two Wings*. The title is taken from Pope St. John Paul II's great encyclical *Fides and Ratio*, in which he teaches that "faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth." The column is carried by *Our Sunday Visitor*, the largest Catholic weekly paper in the US, and by our own Archdiocesan Communications here in Canada.

Finally, 2023 was another fulfilling year of meeting many of you here in our Archdiocese. I presented in our Archdiocesan lay formation and spiritual director formation programs as well as for our office of youth and young adult ministry, and did a variety of work in parishes, including Advent retreats, Q & A sessions, and RCIA presentations. I am always happy to hear from you and talk about what I may be able to do with your parish or ministry.

# Archives

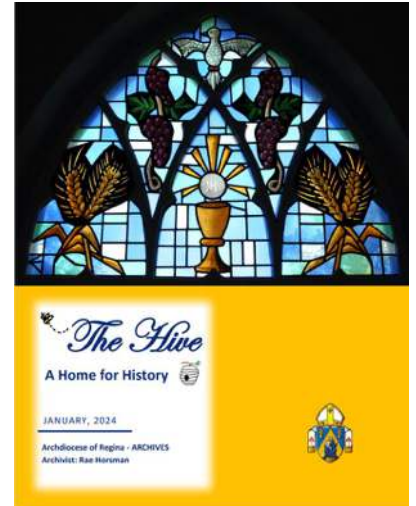
by Rae Horsman



This year saw a turnover in stewardship of the archives. My name is Rae Horsman, and my work as the archivist for the Archdiocese of Regina began May 1, 2023. Last year was a year of much change in the department. This year has been a year of endurance. Many times throughout the year, direction from Paul's letters was heeded, and sometimes embracing his motivations went better than other times. There are many projects that need to be completed and they take turns in their demand of energy and attention. It has taken a number of months to realize that the work in the archives requires dedicated persistence more than efficiency. Endurance will be the key to success in the long run. So, right now, a verse in Hebrews sits with me, "For you need endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what was promised" (10:36 NRSV).

Sometimes the archives can be overlooked as a ministry in the church. But anyone who works in archives, whether in a parish setting, religious congregation, or diocesan administration is really preserving the memory of the pilgrim church on earth. What is done to organize the holdings, and facilitate its usefulness, is done from a place of orientation toward God in service to the public good.

The department continues to help the collection settle after the moves, creating inventories, accessioning material, generating indexes, and advancing the building and use of digital tools to search the collection. Since May 1, there have been 125 requests to access information in the holdings ranging in degree of research complexity. There has been a newsletter developed called "The Hive", which includes a pilot project of making available religious items for use where they are needed. There was a donation of 57 digital collections of photographs, of which were fully accessioned. Centralizing the vestment inventory is underway with 98 items fully photographed, numbered, and properly packaged for storage; many dating back prior to the Second Vatican Council. There are over 100 left to catalogue. 275 files have been made digitally searchable to serve the internal function of managing the collection. There have been three displays of 'nifty tidbits' at the diocesan centre, which can be observed by visitors to the administration office. And the archivist did one school presentation about saints and relics, showing some of the artifacts in the collection. Conversations about policy direction, and records management training continue to ensue.



I remain focused on the many boxes of records to still be processed, while celebrating that much has been accomplished this year to gain a better grip on the contents of the collection. It has been especially wonderful to serve the community and support the various needs for information that are made known to the archives. Nonetheless, there have been overwhelming times and, occasionally, seemingly impossible hurdles to face. For this, your prayer support is beseeched and your consideration of giving to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal is encouraged. With help, endurance is possible.

In closing, I offer a quote from Pope John XXIII. May it serve you as it has been of service to the archives this year. "Consult not your fears but your hopes and your dreams. Think not about your frustrations, but about your unfulfilled potential. Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed in, but with what it is still possible for you to do."

# Social Justice

by Tashia Toupin

The Social Justice Department was a flurry of activities, as it always seems to be. To illustrate some of the depth and breadth of this portfolio, this report will focus on the Western Conference for Social Justice (WCSJ). The few topics covered at this year's WCSJ are just a portion of what this office covers. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact me: [ttoupin@archregina.sk.ca](mailto:ttoupin@archregina.sk.ca)

The WCSJ is an annual gathering of Social Justice Diocesan and Eparchial staff and delegates, many of whom are volunteers. We gathered in Saskatoon at Queen's House for a week of networking, praying, support, and dialogue. Some common themes in the diocesan reports included the following:

- 1) Reflections on the Papal Visit
  - a. The Work of Truth and Reconciliation,
  - b. What have we done, where are we called to continue to work and move,
  - c. lessons we have learnt
- 2) Climate Change
  - a. Political and Societal Apathy and Overwhelm
  - b. How might the Church be a balm for this?
  - c. Putting our Money where our mouth is as Church, Divest
- 3) Houselessness/ Homelessness
  - a. it's an epidemic, but we have some solutions,
- 4) Support for Newcomers
  - a. economic pathways for self-autonomy,
  - b. mental health with the caveat that this is not newcomer-specific,
  - c. inculturation for our parishes and faith communities,
  - d. stress on International students to be breadwinners abroad and support and sponsor family members
- 5) Development and Peace Caritas Canada
  - a. Creating Hope (After COVID, After the Review, After the Re-Organization),
  - b. Rebuilding with our parishes
  - c. Working closer with the CCCB
  - d. Part of Caritas Internationalis and working with the Vatican
- 6) The Blessing of Community
  - a. Gathering together to support and pray together is so important!

We also had several presentations, many of which there are resources for. If any of these topics interest you, reach out to see how the Social Justice Office can support you on these.

- 1) Equipping Community and Church Leaders in a Society of Polarization. We looked at some of the following points: Dialogue skills, documenting and demonstrating your impact, how to connect Social Justice with other parish/diocesan ministries, getting rid of ideological stances, asking better questions, and how we can better live out our call to live in relationships and encounter following the model of Jesus.
- 2) The CWL Presented on Human Trafficking (HT). Ideas for your parishes: Statistics about HT, secular and Vatican resources, dates to raise awareness for HT (Feb 8, Feb 22, May 5), and I'm Worth It Now (IWIN), Red Sand Campaign, Backpacks for survivors of HT and entering wrap-around supports
- 3) The Housing Crisis and what some provinces/Diocese are doing about it

If you would like any more information or perhaps a workshop or discussion to take place at your deanery or parish on any of these topics, please contact me for sharing of resources.

The next WCSJ will be in Winnipeg, usually the week after Thanksgiving. If you or someone you know would be interested in attending, please email me.

*continued...*

# Justice Social

par Tashia Toupin

*Traduite par DeepL*

Le département de la justice sociale a été très actif, comme toujours. Pour illustrer la profondeur et l'étendue de ce portefeuille, ce rapport se concentrera sur la Conférence de l'Ouest pour la Justice Sociale (WCSJ). Les quelques sujets abordés lors de la WCSJ de cette année ne représentent qu'une partie de ce que couvre ce bureau. Si vous avez des questions ou souhaitez obtenir de plus amples informations, veuillez contacter Tashia Toupin à l'adresse suivante : [ttoupin@archregina.sk.ca](mailto:ttoupin@archregina.sk.ca)

Le WCSJ est un rassemblement annuel du personnel et des délégués diocésains et éparchiaux de la justice sociale, dont beaucoup sont des bénévoles. Nous nous sommes réunis à Saskatoon, à Queen's House, pour une semaine de réseautage, de prière, de soutien et de dialogue. Voici quelques-uns des thèmes communs aux rapports diocésains :

- 1) Réflexions sur la visite papale
  - a. Le travail de vérité et de réconciliation,
  - b. Qu'avons-nous fait, où sommes-nous appelés à continuer à travailler et à avancer?
  - c. Les leçons que nous avons tirées
- 2) Changement climatique
  - a. Apathie et accablant politique et sociétal
  - b. Comment l'Église peut-elle être un baume pour cela ?
  - c. Joindre le geste à la parole en tant qu'Église, désinvestir
- 3) Le sans-abrisme / l'absence de logement
  - a. c'est une épidémie, mais nous avons des solutions,
- 4) Soutien aux nouveaux arrivants
  - a. voies économiques pour l'autonomie,
  - b. la santé mentale avec la mise en garde que cela n'est pas spécifique aux nouveaux arrivants,
  - c. l'inculturation pour nos paroisses et nos communautés religieuses,
  - d. l'accent mis sur les étudiants internationaux pour qu'ils soient des soutiens de famille à l'étranger et qu'ils soutiennent et parrainent les membres de leur famille qui n'en finissent pas.
- 5) Développement et Paix Caritas Canada
  - a. Créer l'espoir (après COVID, après la révision, après la réorganisation),
  - b. Reconstruire avec nos paroisses
  - c. Travailler plus étroitement avec la CECC
  - d. Faire partie de Caritas Internationalis et travailler avec le Vatican
- 6) La bénédiction de la communauté
  - a. Il est si important de se rassembler pour se soutenir et prier ensemble!

Nous avons également organisé plusieurs présentations, pour lesquelles il existe des ressources. Si l'un de ces sujets vous intéresse, contactez-nous pour voir comment le Bureau de la justice sociale peut vous aider.

1) Équiper les leaders de la communauté et de l'église dans une société de polarisation. Nous avons examiné certains des points suivants : Compétences en matière de dialogue, documentation et démonstration de votre impact, comment relier la justice sociale à d'autres ministères paroissiaux/diocésains, se débarrasser des positions idéologiques, poser de meilleures questions, et comment nous pouvons mieux vivre notre appel à vivre dans les relations et les rencontres en suivant le modèle de Jésus.

2) Le CWL a présenté un exposé sur la traite des êtres humains. Idées pour vos paroisses : Statistiques sur la traite des êtres humains, ressources laïques et vaticanes, dates de sensibilisation à la traite des êtres humains (8 février, 22 février, 5 mai) et l'm Worth It Now (IWIN), campagne Sable rouge, sacs à dos pour les survivants de la traite des êtres humains et mise en place d'un soutien global.

3) La crise du logement et ce que font certaines provinces et certains diocèses à ce sujet.

Si vous souhaitez obtenir de plus amples renseignements ou organiser un atelier ou une discussion dans votre doyenné ou votre paroisse sur l'un ou l'autre de ces sujets, veuillez communiquer avec Tashia. De nombreuses ressources ont été partagées et elle serait ravie de les partager avec vous tous.

Le prochain WCSJ aura lieu à Winnipeg, habituellement la semaine suivant l'Action de grâces. Si vous ou quelqu'un que vous connaissez souhaitez y participer, veuillez envoyer un courriel à Tashia.

# Refugee Sponsorship

by Tashia Toupin

Abdul Ali left his position with the Archdiocese on Feb 1, 2023. In mid-August, we hired a new Refugee Field Worker, Muyiwa Adewale. During this time of transition, an opportunity to review our policies and procedures was present. We have made several changes to better protect and ensure the best settlement we can for refugees and their families here in the Archdiocese. We thank you for your continued support and dedication to helping some of the most vulnerable people in our world.

The contract that the Archdiocese has with the Federal Government's Immigration Refugee Citizenship Canada (IRCC) department has been renewed. This process takes place every five years.

We also underwent a revalidation process and received a ranking of A+ (12/100) where 0 is a perfect score. We received one of the highest marks in all of Canada! A large reason for this is because of the countless hours that our finance department, particularly Jennifer Ochieng, put into helping create and streamline the financial support given to refugees. Her love of spreadsheets and joy at problem-solving with me was a great help, and source of comfort during the most stressful times in this process. Thank you!

If you have questions about how to help support refugees or would like to donate please contact Muyiwa at [madewale@archregina.sk.ca](mailto:madewale@archregina.sk.ca)

# Parrainage de Réfugiés

*Traduite par DeepL*

Abdul Ali a quitté son poste au sein de l'Archidiocèse le 1er février 2023. À la mi-août, nous avons embauché un nouvel agent de terrain pour les réfugiés, Muyiwa Adewale. Pendant cette période de transition, nous avons eu l'occasion de revoir nos politiques et procédures. Nous avons apporté plusieurs changements afin de mieux protéger les réfugiés et leurs familles et de leur garantir le meilleur établissement possible dans l'archidiocèse. Nous vous remercions de votre soutien continu et de votre dévouement à aider certaines des personnes les plus vulnérables de notre monde.

Le contrat que l'archidiocèse a conclu avec le service Immigration Refugee Citizenship Canada (IRCC) du gouvernement fédéral a été renouvelé. Ce processus a lieu tous les cinq ans.

Nous avons également fait l'objet d'un processus de revalidation et avons reçu la note A+ (12/100), 0 étant une note parfaite. Nous avons reçu l'une des notes les plus élevées de tout le Canada ! Cela s'explique en grande partie par les innombrables heures que notre service financier, en particulier Jennifer Ochieng, a consacrées à la création et à la rationalisation de l'aide financière accordée aux réfugiés. Son amour des feuilles de calcul et sa joie de résoudre les problèmes avec moi ont été d'une grande aide et une source de réconfort pendant les périodes les plus stressantes de ce processus. Merci à elle!

Si vous avez des questions sur la manière de soutenir les réfugiés ou si vous souhaitez faire un don, veuillez contacter Muyiwa à l'adresse [madewale@archregina.sk.ca](mailto:madewale@archregina.sk.ca).

# Parish Pastoral Support Services

by Sharon Bender and Leona Burkhart

Parish Pastoral Support Services has had another busy year.

## Protocol for Responsible Parish Ministry

We have continued with our five-year rotation of Protocol for Responsible Parish Ministry audits in parishes. It is always a pleasure to meet face to face with people. We started the process of reviewing the Protocol binder to update some of the procedures. There are very few changes that will be occurring but we need to ensure the protocols follow current laws and practices.



*Sharon Bender*



*Leona Burkhart*

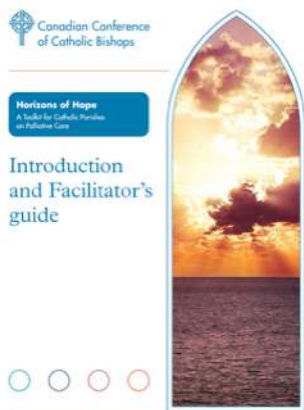
## Employment Policies

With amendments made to the Saskatchewan Employment Act, there are some adjustments that have been made to the Archdiocese's Employment Policies. This is an on-going process with a review of the manual being done in 2024 ensuring compliance with current Canadian and Saskatchewan laws.

## Organization Facilitation Committee

With the Organization Facilitation Committee, we have assisted parishes with the process of declining parish engagement, the closing of parishes and assisting with special concerns.

## Horizons of Hope



We did a Horizons of Hope workshop in November. This is a workshop created by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops that deals with compassionate care especially at the end of life. It is designed to help people as they walk with others who are seriously ill or palliative.

## General

We provided workshops for new priests who have come to our archdiocese so they understand the Protocol for Responsible Parish Ministry, Employment Policies and Parish Pastoral and Finance Committees guidelines.

We continue to endeavour to provide support and to journey with parishes and clergy in a manner that is most supportive to the parish.

# Victim Services and Advocacy

by Pamela Walsh



In the still darkness, watching the twinkling stars give way to the dawn of a new day offers time to reflect on the successes, accomplishments and things that didn't go well or need to be reassessed. There were many events, projects and areas to reflect on. Outreach and walking with victims/survivors, workshops, presentations, and prayer services were a few areas where the Victim Services Advocacy (VSA) was engaged.

The VSA's primary focus is always walking with, listening to, and working with victims/ survivors in ways that are helpful to them. Being invited into the uniqueness of each person's process, hearing their pain and sorrow, frustration and anger, and listening to their experience can only be described as a great honour and privilege to be part of. Many may believe that people coming forward is negative, but it isn't; it is the best possible gift the church can receive. This area must be continually worked on so those who come forward are not revictimized again. Often hearing the pain of being revictimized and their voices echoing the need for transparency, accountability, education and change, three main themes emerged this year: Acknowledging the Damage, Addressing the Trauma and Walking with the Wounded.

January to June saw a torrid pace of 21 trauma-informed perspective workshops delivered throughout the diocese. All deaneries booked workshops, but unforeseen circumstances resulted in cancellations in two deaneries. Others invited to participate in the workshops were diocese staff, the Archdiocese Finance Council, parish staff, the lay review board, parish/ finance chairs, Marian centre and SARA groups, lay ministry, spiritual directors and diaconate, deacons and priests. Not all who were invited attended, but those who did were provided with a diverse range of topics that looked at different areas of trauma, the impact of triggers and walking with those wounded in several ways, including clergy sexual abuse and asking people to change narratives from what is wrong with that person to what happened to them.

Overall, positive comments, questions, open dialogue and requests for follow-up workshops were expressed. Many participants reflected on what trauma they experienced and voiced a desire to use the information in their own lives or work. Some people voiced resistance to some topics. Most notably, it was directed toward victims and the presenters. Instead of dismissing the resistance, it underlined the need to continue conversations and dialogue with everyone.

Pope Francis's March prayer intention was for victims of abuse, invoking the prayer: "We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering." Creating opportunities for everyone inside the church to respond positively and productively to victims. The VSA was invited to speak at five Sunday masses about the prayer intentions and what is being done locally. These were extremely well-received. On March 31, parishes were asked to gather in solidarity with victims by saying the Way of the Cross at 7 pm. Sadly, most parishes didn't, but for those that did, it showed a desire to be with victims concretely and to be open to change.

Several parishes host The Way of the Cross Through the Voice of Victims during Lent. Annual live streaming of this prayer service exceeded expectations; nearly 200 viewed the English Way of the Cross, hosted by Regina's Resurrection parish, and about 100 online, with more in person at Regina's St. Jean Baptiste, French Way of the Cross. The first Sunday of Advent Regina's Holy Child parish hosted the Prayer Service: The Light Shines Through Broken Places. Advertised in bulletins and open to all, the words spoken were only heard by a few.

Presentations included a Zoom presentation with Archbishop Bolen to some members of the CCCB Standing Committee for Responsible Ministry, new priests' and Lay Ministry presentations. Each provided an opportunity to share areas where the VSA and diocese work in these areas. They provide fruitful discussions but also present challenges in moving forward. Challenges that give time for reflection and change.

Redesigning the CSA portion of the diocese website is a work in progress. The three themes of Acknowledging the Damage, Addressing the Trauma and Walking with the Wounded came from Through Transparency, Accountability, Education and Change. The redesign of the contact page clarified who was being contacted and their position. This has been very positively received. Looking to make the site more user-friendly, English, French and Contact tabs are now available. <https://archregina.sk.ca/>.

This year, many successes and accomplishments occurred—the live streaming of prayer services and the openness to having the VSA speak before or after mass. The complex dialogue that occurred during workshops, prayer services and other presentations. However, challenges continue in many areas. Open and honest dialogue that would allow victims to speak their truth without being ridiculed or targeted. Making all church spaces welcoming and inclusive, safe places for victims to enter, be it the cathedral, the diocese offices or the local parish. Until then, victims will continue to suffer, hurt, and harm through covert and overt ways, leaving them to suffer in silence and alone. 1 Cor 12:26 says, "If one member suffers, all suffer together with it." There is much work to do before this statement is fulfilled.



## Catechetical Support for Parishes

by Robert Barr

“If a catechist has an easy time of it, he or she will end up in a museum.”  
– *Pope Francis*



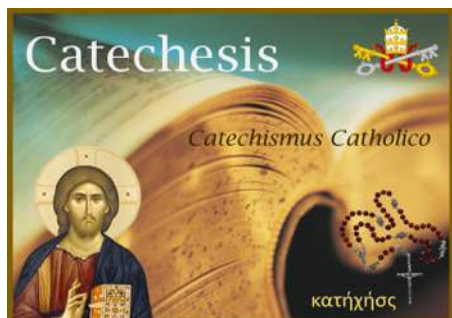
Each year, we start by giving thanks to God for the generous donors of the Archbishop's Appeal and this year is no different. It is through the Appeal that Catechesis Support is available to the Catechists in both rural and urban parishes.

Many rural parishes received a visit in 2023 by me and also through traveling with the Archbishop to Confirmations in rural areas. Why are visits to rural and urban parishes important? Visits are important because they express support directly to the catechist...not by phone, not by email, and not by video, but in-person. Regardless if the ministry position receives remuneration or is volunteer, a large portion of this ministry is a one-person show with very few resources. Going beyond books, lessons and teaching, listening is the most vital part of support and every catechist needs to be heard, needs to know how important their ministry is, every catechist deserves spiritual support and mentorship, which is the responsibility of the Church and every diocese. Our catechists are never alone and are very much loved.

One of the overall goals set out for the Catechetical Support Office was to find a Catechesis program suitable for all parishes, but especially for rural parishes where Catholic schools do not exist. The program chosen was “Fashioning Faith.”; it is a resource tool exclusively for Catechists only. 40 parishes tried this program for free, and just a few decided to renew at the nominal cost of \$100.00 per year. In any case, rural catechesis remains a major focus for this office and committed to supporting the Fashioning Faith resource.

In 2023, a weekly Catechesis link was sent to all parishes via the Archdiocese bulletin to provide Catechesis opportunities to all the faithful across the archdiocese that was straightforward and easily accessible, originally meant for parish bulletins. Since parish bulletins can be limited for space, the program has momentarily been paused and will resume in a different form to better serve the faithful through the Catechists. Catechists will receive it by email and may decide how to distribute suitably that best fits their community of parishioners.

A highlight of 2023 was the Catechesis Support Office's Workshop and Retreat. This idea was presented to Catechists of the Archdiocese and was received with enthusiastic support. 15-20 rural catechists attended this event in Stockholm, and the speakers, the questions and discussion with attendees, and the catechist connections with each other were exceptional. A Catechist Workshop and Retreat will be offered again.



We are grateful for your hospitality and look forward to serving this ministry in 2023. As in previous years, we ask for your prayers. We will continue to pray for our catechists daily and pray that we will serve you “where you are at”.

# Indigenous Relations

by Sr. RéAnne Letourneau p.m.

The year 2023 in the area of Indigenous Relations was full and abundant. The image that comes to me is a farmer's field—the grain seeds planted have grown, some wheat sheaves have fallen, died and have given life to many different kinds of “bread and bannock” to be shared. And at the same time much preparation work was done behind the scenes...tilling the earth and making preparations for new seeds to be sown.... life, death and new life!

## Truth and Reconciliation Committee

Our Truth and Reconciliation Committee was brought together some years ago, co-chaired by Susan Beaudin and Bishop Don Bolen, as a survivor-led group whose role was to help guide the archdiocese and its parishes in walking with Indigenous Peoples in a good way. When the National Indigenous Reconciliation Fund (IRF) was established, this committee was asked to identify survivor-led projects, to help with applications for funding, and to oversee the distribution of IRF funds in our archdiocese. Sub-committees were formed for both urban and rural outreach.

In 2023, the TR Committee worked hard to develop a set of guidelines for projects, in order to make sure the application process was as clear, and survivor centred as possible. The guidelines encouraged projects to respond to TRC Call to Action #61, and to create opportunities for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people to walk together.

Archdiocesan funds committed via the IRF will be used for survivor-led projects in Regina and in 26 First Nation and Métis communities outside Regina. In 2023, IRF funds supported projects on Cote, Keeseekoose, Ocean Man, and Ochapowace/Chacachas. (See video links here....) IRF funds also supported a project by Women of the Dawn in Regina, and preparations were made for a larger Regina project to begin in 2024.

## Archives

Being a bridge to the important archive work that some of the First Nation communities that had a residential school with cemetery was another priority this year. Special thanks to Susan Klein for providing important information for the community of Star Blanket Cree Nation and Keeseekoose before she retired. And to our new archivist Rae Horseman for continuing this outreach to those communities and others! I was able to present the IRS team from Star Blanket with some important archival information that was found, and the community there was extremely grateful for this. I collaborated with the Oblate community and their Centre du Patrimoine, where many archives are stored, to help bridge First Nation communities with information they needed for their cemetery work. Community members from Cowessess, Star Blanket and Keeseekoose were able to access important archival information and the folks working at this Centre were so open and hospitable that it was a very positive experience for the Indigenous people who went there.

## Gatherings and Outreach

Our Regular monthly potluck and sharing circles continue to be a source of relationship building where friendships are formed and is a main heartbeat for the entire group. We continue to meet with the kokoms the first Thursday of every month at Sacred Heart school, where we can also connect with students and staff there, as well as the third Thursday in my home. Regular outreach to families in need especially with wakes, funerals, and other times of crisis and struggle is an important part of the life of this ministry. And the times of prayer and celebration with numerous Pipe ceremonies, Feasts, Round Dances, Pow Wows, Vision Quests and other ceremonies were all part of our Indigenous Relations/TRC walk throughout the past year.



*A round dance drum song at the ANARC Christmas party*

*continued...*

## Indigenous Relations (cont'd)



*The Littletent family*

We were once again able to collaborate with the Youth and Young Adult ministry of the Archdiocese in 2 ways: at the MyGen Youth Rally, kokom Doreen Topp showed some of the youth how to make bannock during part of their service project outreach. She was able to share with them her journey of healing and reconciliation. Secondly, we were very excited to be part of Variety Night for the first time. The Littletent family were thrilled to be a part of this four-day lively event. With the theme of the “Four Seasons”, they highlighted the annual Treaty 4 Pow Wow in September by doing brief Pow Wow demonstrations. The Indigenous children, youth and adults that were part of the dancing, drumming and singing were very grateful for the experience, and they said it helped them to

heal...another concrete step of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people walking together. Plans were already being made for next year's variety night!

### Education

A special focus was made on reaching out to non-Indigenous allies, in person and through a number of zoom presentations throughout the year. There were many opportunities for presentations to various groups, in Catholic parishes, Archdiocesan Pastoral Council, new clergy, ecumenical churches, and schools.

We resumed our work on the 4 Seasons of Reconciliation project and hope to have it completed in 2024.

The Social Justice committee at Resurrection Parish also wanted to continue their education and steps of truth and reconciliation and invited Doreen Topp to their group to learn how to make bannock and begin some important friendships. Like the MyGen experience, the simple act of making bannock is so symbolic of that grain of wheat dying to bring life to others, through the heart and hands of a kokom, who shares not only her bannock recipe but the ingredients of her life, which nourishes many!

### National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

This celebration on Sept 30 was hosted this year at St Cecilia's Parish. The Littletent family once again helped us enter into the spirit of this day with many members of their family putting on a cultural performance with pow wow dances, songs and prayers. After the program we had soup and bannock supper. We joined the regular 7 PM parish mass, but it had the focus of truth and reconciliation and was celebrated by Bishop Don. It was a beautiful afternoon and evening.

I want to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude for the privilege of journeying with the Archdiocese in the area of Indigenous Relations. The grace-filled opportunity to be a bridge between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples has been a great gift in my life. With the support and friendship of so many, through sorrows and joys, challenges and growth, I feel like my wheat field has been cultivated and harvested. The wheat sifted and ground up, to make flour into bread/bannock... “blest, broken and given”. Thank you for sharing in this feast at the table of relationship!

## Valley Native Ministry

by Sr. Bernadette Feist, osu



Our ministry continued during 2023. We visited elders, brought communion to people in hospital, and helped with many funerals. We offered lay-led liturgies on nearby First Nations. I sent out many copies each month of our Gathering the Four Winds newsletter.

Our “Too Good to be Threw” Friday gatherings continued for sharing lives, healing and reconciliation over lunch and coffee. This summer we did fundraisers to support the Lebret Museum, and we offered tours to various visitors including a young group from Camp Monahan and teachers from SUNTEP colleges in Prince Albert, Saskatoon, La Ronge and Regina.

# Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry

by Braden Kuntz and Michelle Braden



*“Youth Ministry, as traditionally organized, has also suffered the impact of social changes. Young people often fail to find responses to their concerns, needs, problems and hurts in the usual structures. As adults, we find it hard to listen patiently to them, to appreciate their concerns, demands, and to speak to them in a language they can understand.”*

*-Pope Francis*

The Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry echo this observation of Pope Francis and in 2023 have endeavoured to evaluate our responses and outreach to young people and those who serve them in ways that are unafraid to think outside the box. Below are a few highlights from a year in ministry.



The theme for this year's diocesan youth rally was “Be Kind: Rewind”. Participants came from all over Southern Sask. and we even enjoyed the company of a group from Saskatoon. Father Parker Love and Adam Reiger (from Edmonton) shared the keynote podium and invited the 150 participants to consider taking the time to rewind...look at where we have been and how it is impacting where we are now and where we are being called to go. The afternoon was spent out in the community at a variety of service project sites. As always, we were made welcome at Archbishop M.C. O'Neill High School and supported in prayer all day by the CWL prayer warriors on site. We were kept safe, well organized and well fed by the Knights of Columbus. The students were ministered to by 70 amazing and dedicated young adult leaders and a number of priests who made themselves available until late Saturday night to hear confessions. The time of Adoration on Saturday evening was a highlight of the day.



## Camp/Y.A. Retreat

Leadership Camp is a 4-day camp experience for teens and young adults seeking to grow in faith and leadership. This year's theme was “Journeying Together” and brought together 35 campers, and a dozen leaders into community for 4 days of prayer, learning, growing and being challenged. There was also 2 nights of retreat at the end of the time at camp for just young adults. These two days of retreat were led by Father Christian Lindenbach and it was a great time for renewal and growth.

*continued...*

## Youth Ministry (cont'd)

### Praise in the Park

We were pleased to be a part of Praise in the Park in union with a number of other Christian churches in Regina. We provided kids activities in the park over the course of the event. It was a day of great conversations and shared celebration.

### Variety Night

Variety Night is a fundraising/community building event organized each Spring by the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. The theme for Variety Night in 2023 was "Seasons". Six hundred people made up our audiences this year, and in addition to a variety of song, dances and skits, were treated to performances by the Littletent family each night, who joined us to share their love and knowledge of their traditional Indigenous dances. We as a cast were so blessed to have them join us.



### Young Adult Hike: In the Footsteps of the Saints

On a beautiful Fall day in October, a number of young adults gathered at St. Peter's Parish in Lumsden to start a day of walking and prayer focusing on journeying with the saints. Upon return to the parish, they shared a meal and some time of Adoration before heading home to rest very tired feet!

### Worship Leaders Workshop

In Mid-November we sent out an invitation to those involved in leading worship to join us for a road trip to Our Lady of Victory Camp near Red Deer, Alberta for a worship leader's workshop. Seven folks from around the archdiocese joined us that weekend and it was an anointed time! Look for another similar venture in the late Fall of 2024.

### Launch of Pilot Project

In our search for new and more effective ways to help parishes minister to the young people in their care (which includes, but is NOT limited to just the young folk in their parishes) we launched a pilot project this year with one parish that took youth ministry out of the parish walls and into the schools. From this initiative we are hoping to learn new ways of approaching parish youth ministry that include going out to meet young people where they are, instead of waiting for them to come to us. It has been an exciting year that has proved this approach has great possibilities. We are hoping to help more communities to explore this exciting new approach in the coming year.

As always, the mission of this office is to develop young leaders, give young people opportunities to gather in community, and to empower parishes to reach out to, support and evangelize the young souls in their care. We would love to be invited to your community to explore how we might be helpful.

# Vocations

by Father Parker Love, Vocations Director

Each of us has a Vocation, a calling from God that is meant to direct our lives according to His will as we pursue our universal call to holiness. For those called to the Priesthood, there are many steps involved. The final step before Ordination to the Priesthood is the Ordination to the Diaconate. This step is no simple formality, but rather, it is the foundation upon which the Priesthood is built.

The word Diaconate comes from the Greek word “Diakonas,” and it means to serve. Service is at the very foundation of both the Diaconate and the Priesthood. In the Acts of the Apostles, the apostles appoint seven men to serve the community and manage the distribution of food, which is often regarded as the beginning of the modern diaconate.

This year, the Archdiocese of Regina had the privilege of ordaining Daniel Malone to the Diaconate after many years of formation. The majority of his Diaconal Ministry will take place in the Archdiocese of Toronto, where he will finish his formation.



At the Ordination Masses, while others are kneeling during the Litany of Saints, the candidate for Holy Orders lies prostrate in front of the altar. This act is more than symbolic. It is the beginning of his laying down of his life for the people of God whom he will serve.

We are all called to serve in different ways. That service is the nature of Vocation. Continue to pray for our seminarians and continue to pray for more young men and women to take up the call that God has for them, whether that is found in the priestly life or otherwise.

# Ecumenical & Interfaith Relations

by Nicholas Jesson



Sometime in early 2023, after I reported at a staff meeting, one of my colleagues commented on the variety of projects that I was working on. My portfolio normally involves numerous projects, committees, and consultations within the parishes and the diocese, as well as with other churches, and other faith communities. Yet in recent years, the scope of activities has widened as I have liaised with the provincial government on COVID regulations and led the Archdiocese's Synod team. Our ecumenical work for social justice has broadened to include more advocacy as well as more coordination with other dioceses and with national justice projects. I continue to be involved in support or leadership of KAIROS Regina, Multifaith Saskatchewan, Regina Council of Churches, and various other projects and committees.

One aspect of my work for many years has been support for the archbishop's ecumenical roles. This includes the development and maintenance of an archive of the international Anglican-Roman Catholic dialogue at <https://iarccum.org>. It also involves research and writing briefing materials on various ecumenical topics as needed. I have also convened a national consultation of Catholic ecumenical officers for the past four years. In February, I met with the Canadian bishops' Commission for Christian Unity to advise them on the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, evaluation of the ecumenical dialogues, and ways to support diocesan bishops in developing local ecumenical strategies and supporting parish ecumenism. In September, Archbishop Don was appointed to this Commission and is now the chair. I will continue to assist him in this role over the next few years.

I have represented the Canadian bishops in ecumenical dialogues for many years. I am currently part of the Anglican-Roman Catholic dialogue. We have been working on the "theology of apology," exploring the theological content and significance of church apologies for Residential schools, slavery, and other historic evils. I have also represented the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism on the Canadian Council of Churches Commission on Faith and Witness. This theological commission brings together the CCC member churches to assist the churches to witness together in Canadian society. We have nearly finished a report on "The Church in Canada in a Digital Age: Theological Principles and Online Practices." In early June, I joined ecumenical leaders across Canada in a "Forum on Interchurch Dialogues" in Edmonton. Later the same month, I provided support to the Evangelical-Roman Catholic dialogue that was visiting Regina and joined in their discussions to share my experiences of work with Evangelicals in Saskatchewan.

In January 2023, the Archdiocese became a co-sponsor of the annual De Margerie Series on Christian Reconciliation and Unity. This lecture series has been sponsored in Saskatoon by St. Thomas More College, the Diocese of Saskatoon, and the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism. For the 11th annual lecture series, Champion College and the Archdiocese joined the project. Two lectures are now held each year, one in Regina and one in Saskatoon, with livestreaming available. In addition, workshops are also held to supplement the lecture themes. In 2023, the lecturer was Bishop Bruce Myers, OGS, the Anglican bishop of Quebec. His topic, "Ecumenical Log Drivers: Forming Agents of Reconciliation for Church and World," presented an approach to teaching the practical and theological aspects of ecumenism to raise up a new generation of clergy and lay leaders who are also agents of reconciliation and Christian unity.

Activities throughout the year reflect the variety of work in ecumenical and interfaith relations. I led the planning for the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service in Regina, held at New Hope Lutheran Church and assisted the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism with the online Bible Study on the theme of the Week of Prayer. In May, I assisted the Youth Office by leading a contingent of youth on a visit to the Latter-day Saints (aka the Mormons). In September, the Archbishop and I attended the groundbreaking for the new Al-Salaam Mosque for the Islamic Association of Saskatchewan. I have concluded my term as president of Multifaith Saskatchewan, but I continue to work with MFS and the Regina Multifaith Forum to support interfaith discussions and activities.

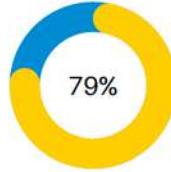
Catholic parishes in Regina continue to support the ecumenical Saturday Lunch project at First Baptist Church. In March, I attended the Sunday service at Westhill Park Baptist Church to speak about the project. I continue to assist the leadership team on this project. In the fall of 2023, I helped to gather churches and inner-city agencies concerned about the need for a warming centre in the Heritage neighbourhood. After several months of advocacy, we were successful in bringing the provincial government into a funding agreement with Carmichael Outreach to operate this warming centre. Continued advocacy for the unhoused will be needed in the future.

# Development Office

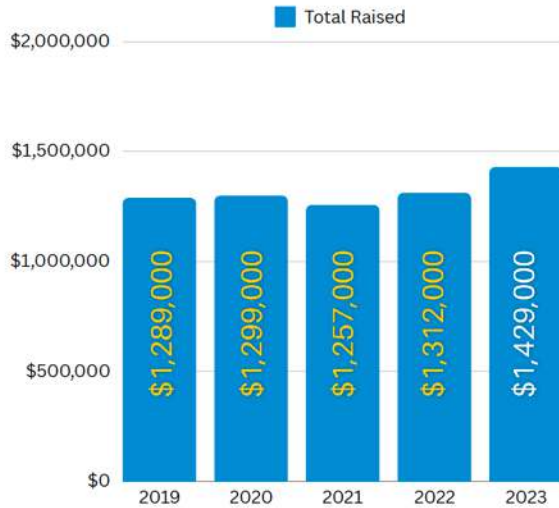
Archbishop's Appeal



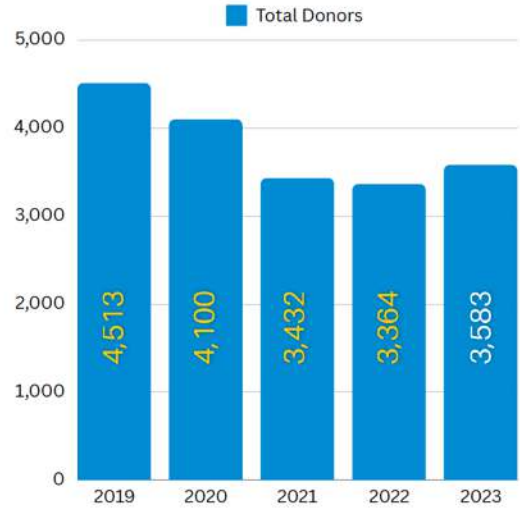
Retention Rate



Total Raised with 5 year trend



Total Donors with 5 year trend



## Giving Levels

GIVING LEVEL	# OF GIFTS	TOTAL RECEIVED	AVERAGE GIFT SIZE	CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR
\$100K or more	2	\$325,000.00	\$162,500	↑
\$10K - \$99K	7	\$93,000.00	\$1,386	↑
\$1K - \$9,999	225	\$392,000.00	\$1,737	↓
\$500 - \$999	337	\$198,000.00	\$581	↑
\$200 - \$499	930	\$256,000.00	\$274	↑
\$100 - \$199	1032	\$119,000.00	\$114	↑
\$99 and under	1053	\$46,000.00	\$43	↑

### FUNDS RAISED IN 2022

\$1,324,743

### FUNDRAISING COSTS

- \$ 97,657

### ADMINISTRATION COSTS

- \$ 50,374

\$ 1,176,712

## Your Gifts at Work

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH

\$ 331,325

### EDUCATION & FORMATION PROGRAMS

\$ 184,500

### SUPPORT FOR CLERGY & PARISHES

\$ 158,877

### YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

\$ 175,000

### PASTORAL SERVICES

\$ 100,850

### HEALTH CARE MINISTRY

\$ 195,000

### PARTNERSHIPS

\$ 23,000

### REBATES TO PARISHES

\$ 8,160

DISBURSEMENTS IN 2023 (TOTAL)

\$ 1,176,712

continued...

## Development Office (cont'd)

### *Catholic TRC Healing Response*

In September of 2021, the Bishops of Canada committed \$30 million over up to five years to support healing and reconciliation initiatives for residential school survivors, their families, and their communities. This national commitment is known as the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund (IRF). The Archdiocese of Regina has committed to raising \$2M of the \$30M national commitment through our Catholic TRC Healing Response Appeal. To date, the IRF has supported 89 projects including 5 in our Archdiocese. Here is a video from the Ochapowace-Chacachas Culture Camp supported by your gifts and funded through the national Indigenous Reconciliation Fund: [youtu.be/5SoASmmQh78?s](https://youtu.be/5SoASmmQh78?s)  
For information on the National Indigenous Reconciliation Fund, please visit: [www.irfund.ca](http://www.irfund.ca)

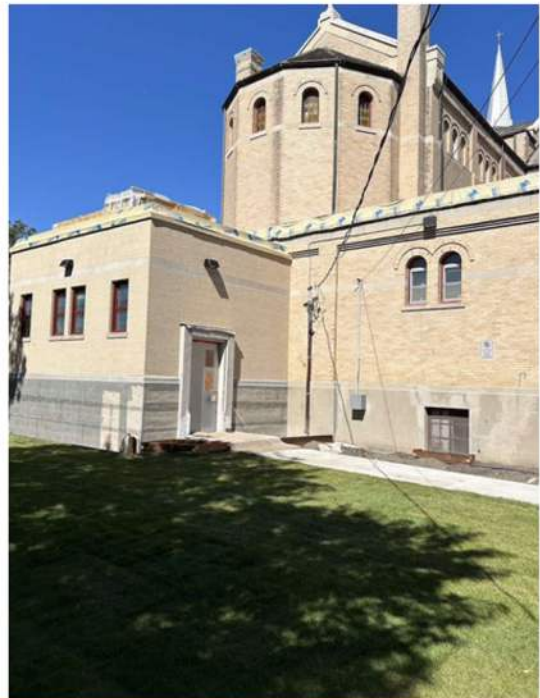
By the end of 2023, we had funds of \$1.66M towards our \$2M commitment and a large portion of the funds were forwarded to the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund.

83%

### *Rebuilding Our Church Capital Campaign*

In 2019, the Archdiocese of Regina began the Rebuilding Our Church campaign to raise funds for the repair of Holy Rosary Cathedral and for a permanent home for our Pastoral Centre. Today, the campaign remains in its quiet phase.

As of the end of 2023 we have received over \$7 million dollars in quiet phase donations and pledges combined. As a result, restoration work began in 2023 including replacement of the south stairs, building accessible washrooms on the main and basement levels, and replacement of the elevator.



# Financial Officer's Report

By Rev. Mr. Barry Wood



It is my pleasure to present the 2023 Audited Financial Statements and 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. The faithful have so graciously supported their parishes, Archbishop's Appeal, and the Rebuilding Our Church Campaign during the 2023 year. 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	Very Rev. Brian Meredith
Rev. Mr. Harper Boucher	Mr. John Dipple
Ms. Gwen Hermann	Mrs. Karen Vey
Ms. Annette Polasek – Vice Chair	Mr. Jim Graham
Mr. James Gustafson	Ms. Christina Herauf

These members provide oversight and governance of the financial resources to the faithful of the Archdiocese, the Archbishop, Director of Pastoral Services, Development Director, and Financial Officer.

Throughout 2023 the Archdiocesan operations were influenced by the contributions of the development office and our acclimatization to the new office space.

## Statement of Financial Position

Cash and Cash equivalents were \$1.5 million, a decrease of \$0.2 million from 2022. Net Funds were granted to the Archdiocese of Regina Foundation Inc. for the Rebuilding our Church Campaign of \$900 thousand with deferred revenue declining \$325 thousand, which lowers the cash balance year over year.

Accounts receivable increased by \$154 thousand to \$826 thousand. The Pastoral Centre began to invoice and collect the priest pension plan assessment on behalf of the Priests' Pension Plan in 2023 and this accounted for \$100 thousand of the increase in receivables at year end. Fourth quarter assessments were issued later in December 2023 with fewer payments made by parishes by end of year leading to the remaining increase in receivables.

Prepays increased due to a deposit to purchase the Holy Rosary Community School Property of \$195 thousand.

Investments have been split between short term and long term. The composition of the investments has been disclosed in note 6. Investments declined by \$276 thousand to \$6,614 million. Withdrawals from the investments were \$766 thousand and this provided working capital liquidity to the Archdiocese.

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## Financial Officer's Report cont'd

Tangible capital assets of \$94.5 thousand were purchased during 2023 with a specific donation made of \$50 thousand to cover the purchase of a vehicle. Furniture for the new offices cost \$29.4 thousand and ongoing refreshing of computer equipment was \$9.7 thousand.

Total Liabilities of \$4.5 million decreased by \$350 thousand from last year. Grants to the Archdiocese of Regina Foundation Inc. for the Rebuilding our Church Campaign accounted for a decrease in liabilities of \$330K. The Archdiocese holds trust funds for refugee sponsorships and other Catholic entities and this liability decreased by \$80 thousand to \$1.223 million in 2023.

Net assets of the Archdiocese are \$7.2 million with unrestricted net assets of the Archdiocese available to support the general operating purposes of the Archdiocese of \$1.8 million. Investments in property are \$0.4 million as the Sisters of the Precious Blood sold their Regina property and the Archdiocese received its residual interest in the property of \$510 thousand. Externally and internally restricted funds total \$5 million.

### Statement of Operations

In 2023, Archdiocesan revenues decreased by \$4.7 million to \$7.1 million, and expenditures decreased by 5.8 million to \$7.1 million as last year's numbers reflect reporting deferred donations for the Rebuilding Our Church and TRC Healing Response as revenue and remitting these funds to the Archdiocese of Regina Foundation and National Indigenous Response Fund as expenditures.

Assessment revenue of \$1.1 million increased by \$100 thousand from 2022 and continues to show a return to pre-covid levels.

Donation and Bequest revenue decreased by \$97 thousand to \$528 thousand on fewer and smaller bequests.

Appeal revenue of \$1.3 million was recognized in 2023 representing \$1.1 million to fund diocesan ministries and \$0.2 million for fund raising and administrative expenses. The Development Office was active for the full 2023 year supported the increase in Archbishop's Appeal donations by \$100 thousand as well as providing guidance to several parish capital fund raising projects.

The diocesan church is called upon to provide pastoral services that aid and enhance the pastoral work of our parishes. Expenditures on these services increased by \$54 thousand to \$1.076 million.

Ministry and Services expenditures of \$4.8 million decreased to \$3.4 million. The decrease is largely due to the 1.6M grant to the National Indigenous Reconciliation Fund unique to the prior year.

The Chancery and Administrative expenses were \$1.2 million in 2023 representing a decrease of \$225 thousand from 2022.

### Audited Financial Statements

The 2023 Audited Financial Statements can be viewed and downloaded here:

<https://archregina.sk.ca/grouppage/audited-financial-reports/>



## Archdiocese of Regina

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