

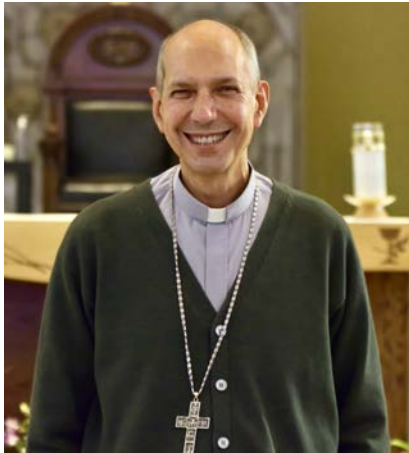


ARCHDIOCESE OF
Regina



2024 Annual Report

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, and all who take the time to read this Annual Report of the Archdiocese of Regina, warm greetings to you all.



In reading the various reports included in this document, I marvelled at the good that is happening in the face of challenges which can certainly be overwhelming. I was thinking about the account of Jesus feeding the 5,000, and the disciples' sense that it was impossible, when all they seemed to be able to offer was five loaves of bread and two fish.

Perhaps from following the news, especially attentive to human suffering and the challenge of living together in a just and peaceful way, perhaps because many of the things that cross a bishop's desk are situations of struggle, conflict, or need, I often feel that there is more pain than we can ever respond to adequately. Too many needs, not enough time. Too much brokenness, not enough people or resources to go around. In all kinds of ways, we feel our limits in the face of an enormity of challenges in our world today.

But then I think about the loaves and the fish, and about what God is doing and can do with the little that we can offer with our time and resources, with our faith and our lives. And I think about favourite lines of a poem by T. S. Eliot, who writes about his own sense of limits as a writer, "trying to learn to use words, and every attempt / Is a wholly new start, and a different kind of failure ... / under conditions That seem unpropitious. But perhaps neither gain nor loss. / For us, there is only the trying. The rest is not our business."

Every page of this annual report shares the efforts being carried out within the Archdiocese, by staff and volunteers, clergy and parishioners, who are doing what they can: to foster spiritual growth and build up our faith communities; to deal with conflicts and challenging situations in a Christian way; to accompany victims of clergy sexual abuse; to reach out to young people in creative and engaging ways; to preserve our history and learn from it; to build ecumenical and interfaith relations which make it easier to live together; to seek justice, reaching out to the margins, and taking steps towards healing and reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples; to assist people living with mental health challenges; to practice good financial stewardship; to pass on the faith which we have so graciously inherited. I think you will find it deeply encouraging to read this annual report, even while being mindful of our shortcomings and areas where much more work is needed.

One theme that is addressed in several of the reports, and was a unifying factor in many of the activities of the Archdiocese in 2024, was the synod on synodality, inviting us to live our calling as Church in a way that is truly consultative and collaborative, with an eye towards reaching out to those in need. While the word 'synodality' can seem a little intimidating, the key elements that the synod called for are not difficult to understand, though they will be a challenge to fully embrace – but it is the challenge of living the Gospel of Jesus Christ, none other.

The synod gathering in Rome in the Fall of 2024 and the document it produced, which was endorsed by the Pope as magisterial teaching carrying his own authority, has turned out to be a final gift to the Church from Pope Francis. He noted that it was now time to implement the insights and learnings from the extensive conversations that took place the world over, which informed the final report of the synod.

Moving into the Jubilee Year of 2025 with the theme 'Pilgrims of Hope', Pope Francis offered the Church a path to renewal, which is meant to enable the Church to be more participatory and missionary so that it can walk with every person, carrying the light of Christ. A synodal way of being Church privileges mutual listening, dialogue and community discernment, trusting that Christ is present in our midst. It invites us to be open to an exchange of gifts, and that metaphor speaks deeply to the new reality of our parishes, which are now made up of parishioners of many cultures, languages, and spiritual traditions, all held together in our Catholic faith.

The challenge given to us at the end of 2024 was to move forward in this path of renewal and revitalization for our parishes and diocesan church, in communion with local churches throughout the world.

In one of the reports below, you will read one staff member's encouragement to remember that "God lives here." I would like to echo that sentiment. God lives here, in our ministry, in our parishes, in the tangles and complexities of our lives. And while we do live in a time when it is easy to be overwhelmed, the Lord invites us to a place of deep trust, which allows us to remain grounded in hope, doing what we can to be bearers of light and hope for others.

Heartfelt thanks to all the staff at the pastoral centre, to all of the parishioners in our parishes throughout the Archdiocese who continue to enrich our communities, to all of our clergy who strive to serve generously, and to the many volunteers who in a thousand ways seek to make life better for others. God bless you all.

Yours in Christ,



+Donald Bolen
Archbishop of Regina



Department of Pastoral Services

by Lisa Polk, Director of Pastoral Services

As I reflect on 2024, I give thanks for the many blessings and opportunities this year has brought to our Pastoral Centre staff and the broader archdiocesan community. While trials and challenges remain, I am heartened by the ways we have grown together in faith, trust, and service to God's people. I am encouraged by the examples shown of drawing together and listening to each other.



Staffing Updates

This year, we experienced the loss of our beloved co-worker, Jennifer Ochieng. We mourn her passing deeply and pray for her often. Her presence and contributions will be dearly missed.

We marked the retirements of Barry Wood and Sr. Bernadette Feist, honoring their many years of dedicated service to our Archdiocese. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to both and pray for them as they begin this new chapter in their lives.

We offered blessings and prayers to Sr. ReAnne Letourneau as she embarked on a sabbatical. Her ministry has been a source of inspiration. Sr. ReAnne received a 2024 Spiritual Service Award from the Regina Multi-Faith Forum in November for her dedication to serving and walking with others.

Our Finance Office is being renewed under the leadership of Chelsey Kress as our Financial Officer. We look forward to the blessings of the many gifts that Chelsey brings. Sunday Adeleye joined the Finance Office team as an accountant in November.

ArchRegina Congress 2024

In September, our ArchRegina Congress was centered around the theme Pilgrims of Hope. This annual gathering brought together clergy, lay leaders, and parishioners for a day of inspiration, dialogue, reflection, and renewal. Participants engaged in listening circles around the question, "What is God calling us to reflect upon about the parishes in the Archdiocese of Regina?" The conversations were rich and diverse, and we will be using some of the discussion notes as we look towards 2025. The energy and engagement of all who attended were a testament to the hope alive in our Archdiocese.

Synod on Synodality Final Report

This year marked the release of the final report from the global Synod on Synodality, which received Pope Francis' approval in November. This document will form the basis of some of the pastoral planning for our Archdiocese in the coming months. We were particularly blessed to host two speakers who attended the Synod in person—Fr. Raymond Lafontaine and Dr. Catherine Clifford. Both generously shared their experiences and engaged with several groups, offering profound insights and reflections that will guide our journey forward.

Thanksgiving and Acknowledgment

None of our accomplishments would be possible without the tireless efforts of the staff of the Pastoral Centre. Your dedication, compassion, faith, and support for each other are the foundation of our ministry. Whether through administrative tasks, pastoral outreach, or community engagement, each of you has played an integral role in advancing the mission of the Church.

As we close 2024 and look to the future, let us continue to embrace hope and action as missionary disciples. May we be guided by prayer, love, and humility in all that we do. Together, let us build a community that reflects Christ's light and love to the world.

We Are Here to Serve You

(list as of July 1, 2025)

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Adelaye, Sunday..... | Accountant |
| Adewale, Muyiwa..... | Refugee Support |
| Ainemon, Rev. Amédée Guy..... | Personnel |
| Andree, Rev. Ron..... | Liturgy |
| Barr, Robert..... | Catechesis Support |
| Beaudin, Susan..... | Indigenous Relations Consultant |
| 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 |
| Daliva, Arnel..... | Health Care Chaplaincy |
| Fitzgerald, Jerry..... | Health Care Chaplaincy |
| Garchinski, Lori..... | Donor Services Coordinator |
| Garchinski, Taran..... | Donor Services Coordinator |
| 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 |
| Horsman, Rae..... | Archives |
| Jesson, Nicholas..... | Ecumenism & Interfaith Relations |
| Juchacz, Rev. Chris..... | Co-Director of Vocations |
| Kress, Chelsey..... | Financial Officer |
| Kuntz, Braden..... | Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry |
| Lipoth, James..... | Director of Development |
| Love, Rev. Parker..... | Co-Director of Vocations |
| Luka, Lukose..... | Finance |
| Meredith, Very Rev. Brian..... | Vicar General |
| Miller, Marlene..... | Spiritual Direction |
| Moser, Barb..... | Pastoral Services Admin Support - Reception |
| 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 |
| Ziegler, Karen..... | Spiritual Direction |



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Dear Monica and Isaac, dear family of Jennifer,

Deepest and most heartfelt condolences as you mourn your beloved Mom, your daughter, your family member. We are all shaken and devastated by Jennifer's death. As you probably know, she was deeply respected and much loved by us at the office. Her generosity, kindness, sense of humour, willingness to help, and all the things she did to build up the spirit at the office, were a gift for all of us. If we feel a hole in our hearts right now, we recognize that you likely feel a much bigger hole in your hearts, in your lives. Jennifer was exceptionally gifted at her work, and dedicated to it, and perhaps that kept most of us from seeing that she also carried a deep pain and big struggles.

May Jennifer rest now in peace, and rise in glory to see the face of the Risen Lord, and to be surrounded by God's tender mercies.

yours in Christ,

Bp Don Bolen for all at the Archdiocese of Regina.

Communications and Evangelization

by Deacon Eric Gurash, Director of Communications and Evangelization

“Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation.” (Mark 16:15)

The Lay Formation Program: Disciples in Mission

June 2024 marked the joyful graduation of six individuals from our Lay Formation program. These men and women continue to be great blessings in our parishes as well as their families, workplaces and the wider community in service to Jesus Christ and his Church.

In the fall of 2024, we welcomed 16 new participants from across the diocese. These individuals from across our diocese have responded to the call to deepen their faith and become well-formed, evangelizing disciples of Jesus Christ. Their ongoing encounter with the joy of the Gospel fuels their missionary zeal, strengthening both parish life and in the wider community.



Growing Engagement in Digital Evangelization:

2024 saw appreciable growth in our digital evangelization efforts:

- Our RENEW Lent and Journey Through Advent email series expanded to serve over 500 and 300 subscribers, respectively.
- The Friday Weekly Report now reaches over 700 subscribers, offering news and updates on diocesan events.
- Our Thinking Faith Podcast, celebrating its 8th anniversary, continues to engage an audience of more than 800 subscribers each month.

Between these direct communications and our social media channels, our messaging and resources regularly reach more than 6000 subscribers each week.

continued...

Office of Communications and Evangelization (cont'd)

Launch of Our Diocesan Recording Studio

In the late Fall of 2024, we opened our official diocesan recording studio, a much-anticipated realization of a dream for our Office of Communications. This space will enhance our ability to produce high-quality media, including messages from the bishop, educational content, appeal videos, and podcasts. Special thanks to Braden Kuntz, Michelle Braden, Brianne Cascanette, and Jose Argerami for their dedication in staging, decor, and equipment setup.

Expanding Parish Communication through Flocknote

Our Flocknote diocesan network continued to grow in 2024, and now includes 13 parishes and diocesan groups. These groups are now able to streamline their communications, reaching their congregations with easy-to-use and reliable communication tools.

Advancing Mental Health Ministry: A Mission of Hope

Work at expanding a diocesan response to mental health needs has continued to move forward. In November of 2024, we received a \$24,000 grant from the Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministers in Scranton, PA, to support increased outreach and support throughout 2025 including:

- Educational workshops on faith and mental health.
- Expansion of spiritual peer support groups, especially in rural communities.
- Mental Health First Aid training for clergy, office staff, and parish volunteers.

This grant will help us further our mission of ensuring that parishes are safe places for individuals and families experiencing mental health challenges to find support and hope.



Looking Ahead: Pilgrims of Hope



As we anticipate the Jubilee Year: Pilgrims of Hope, our work in communications and evangelization aligns with the call to be bearers of Christ's hope to the world. Pope Francis reminds us, "We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart, and far-sighted vision."

Through our Lay Formation program, digital evangelization, media outreach, and mental health ministry, we are equipping disciples to fan these same flames of hope, strengthening the Church's presence in our diocese, and answering Christ's call to share the Good News.

Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care

by Jennifer Holtslander

Spiritual Care Ministries on behalf of the Archdiocese of Regina have continued to provide sacramental and spiritual support for people as they experience changes and challenges while in hospital or rehabilitation.

During 2024 there were many sessions with patients, residents, and their families as they participated in exploring those things that matter most to them. Sometimes those sessions included conversations, storytelling, scripture, prayers, Eucharist, or the Sacrament of the Sick. From time to time we got to be involved in funerals or graveside prayers. Consistently, our shared experiences have been an experience of God's grace and mercy as expressed by the participants who sought support and by the providers of Spiritual Care. The Sacrament of the Sick is one of our most measurable moments of connection. In 2024 the Sacrament of the Sick was recorded 181 times at the Pasqua, 175 times at the General, and 36 times at Wascana.

We could not do this ongoing work without the support of the Spiritual Care Relief Staff who continue to make it possible to offer emergency supports for Catholic patients and families while in Hospital. Many thanks to Cliff Geiger, Bonnie Thiele-Hunt for their faithfulness in covering on-call work for a weekend each month. Thank you also to Joan Schwartz who assists with sharing the Eucharist a few Sundays a month at the Pasqua Hospital. Starting in October, Murray Wright, who is in formation with Archdiocese, joined the Spiritual Care ministry at the Pasqua to help with Thursday visits and he will continue in this role as his formation continues. Thank you, Murray. The team of good people engaged in Spiritual Care volunteering at Wascana Rehabilitation Centre is extensive! It really takes a whole community of people to assist in the ministry of helping people in Rehabilitation, Convalescence, Hospice, and Long-term Care to attend Mass or the Liturgy of the Word, receive Holy Communion, and be supported spiritually. Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts.

Moving through 2024 included many shifts and changes. When Chaplain Joan Rink took a leave, we were blessed to have Loreen Porter join the Spiritual Care team at Wascana. Her care, attention, gentle spirit, and insightful questions were a gift. We were also very grateful when Joan was able to return in September to provide spiritual care connections and support to the residents and staff. Joan's years of connections at Wascana Rehab Centre provide a depth of understanding to the residents.

Many priests have supported the Spiritual Care Ministry both by visiting their own parishioners and by responding when we ask them to help, especially for the Sacrament of the Sick. In addition to the steady support of Fr JB Okai, we also relied heavily on Fr Louis, Fr Mau, Fr Daris, and Fr Jerlin in 2024. Your thoughtful, heart-full interactions with patients and families are deeply appreciated.

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. If you are in need of hospital Spiritual Care, please reach out directly to our on-call numbers (Pasqua Hospital 306-519-1405; General Hospital 306-519-1380; Wascana Rehab 306-530-6511).

There is so much gratefulness to express! Thank you to the patients/residents, family members, and staff who invite us to share in such significant moments. Thank you to the priests who have joined us in this ministry. Thank you to the people of this Archdiocese and the Pastoral Care Office for valuing and supporting this important work. Especially, thank you to our living God who offers us grace upon grace; creates points of connection; and provides courage, energy, and direction in the interventions of which we are part.

With gratitude,

Fr JB Okai, Joan Rink, Jerry Fitzgerald, Jennifer Holtslander



Joan Rink, Jerry Fitzgerald and Jennifer Holtslander

Spiritual Direction

by Karen Ziegler



Spiritual direction can best be described as helping people to grow in a personal relationship with God.

The Archdiocese of Regina presently has 23 active spiritual directors listed on the website and 10 candidates who are in their first year of a two-year formation program, to be commissioned in June of 2026.

Spiritual directors are journeying with those who come to them seeking spiritual direction, seeing people either in person or online. Spiritual directors also journey informally with people.

Directors continue to see their own spiritual directors and seek supervision when needed.

Some directors are guiding people through the Spiritual Exercises. Some directors use the skills and training of spiritual direction as they visit in care homes, hospitals, meetings and in daily life.

One director was interviewed by a college student on the subject of spirituality. Six spiritual directors so far have given workshops and presentations in the Spiritual Direction Formation Program.

Several directors attended the Archdiocesan synod gatherings. The participants were asked to share Spiritual Conversation with guidelines which were very familiar because it is the way Spiritual Directors share at our own gatherings.

Starting in September, we began a new Spiritual Direction Formation Program, with 10 candidates: 7 women and 3 men, of whom 7 are Catholic and 3 non-Catholic. The program began with a week-long silent retreat at St. Peter's Abbey, followed by our first weekend together at Campion College in October. After completion of the 2-year program, we will have new directors ready to support the spiritual journeys of those who reach out.

Current Spiritual Directors continue to renew themselves for the ministry of spiritual direction by taking courses, programs, retreats, book studies, reading and even a contemplative summit. As one director says, these help us experience different situations and people throughout the world from a variety of backgrounds and faiths and how we are all in this journey together, with the belief by doing so helps us to become more open, loving, accepting listeners. As another director says, "Keeping engaged with our own spiritual growth is important, not just for ourselves, but because we can pass on the lessons learned to our directees. Spiritual listening is a skill that requires constant honing".

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, and Leona Burkhart. The Committee reports to Archbishop Donald Bolen, and works closely with the Archdiocese of Regina Administration Committee.

Some areas in which our committee has been involved have been in helping 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.

In 2025, we will be involved in helping to guide the process of the closure of Sacred Heart Parish in Benson and the joining of St. Monica Parish in Bienfait to the Lampman pastoral area. We have also been asked to provide guidance for some deaneries to assist them in their overall discernment to help in planning for upcoming years.

Since the Organization Facilitation Committee's formation in 2019, the committee's role in addressing various areas has changed; however, the primary 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!

Archives

by Rae Horsman

It is a wonder how fast time flies! Looking back on this year in the archives, I chose to serve through the ministry modelling that, “God lives here.” The goal for the archives this year was to advance relationships; to connect people in meaningful ways to the world of stories and history that is held in my stewardship for the faithful of the Archdiocese of Regina. It was my aspiration for the year to have my work demonstrate the love of God, and express that my work in the archives is for the people of God.

Saskatchewan Provincial Archives Week was celebrated February 4-10, 2024. There was a trivia game displayed in the diocesan centre, which drew participants into the historical facts of the Archdiocese of Regina, including a nod to the rich history of the former Diocese of Gravelbourg. Many participants remarked at how fruitful it was to learn some of the unique tidbits that have built and evolved the archdiocese over the years. The activity also inspired some friendly competition.



There was a series of featured exhibits put out to showcase interesting items in the collection. These were enjoyed thoroughly by diocesan staff and visitors to the diocesan centre alike. Much conversation and interest were sparked through this method of engagement.

A couple of research requests afforded me the wonderful opportunity of connecting to some material in the records from the Diocese of Gravelbourg. It was a great deal of fun to work with Gisele and Louis in Gravelbourg, and to bring some of the original Gravelbourg records home to La Co-Cathédrale Notre Dame de l'Assomption. I

owe many thanks for the help undertaking some translation work to be able to support patron inquiries to the archives.



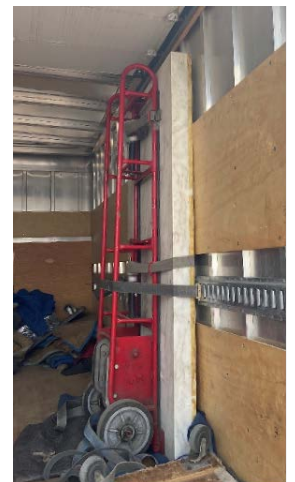
There were 171 inquiries made to the archives at the Archdiocese of Regina this year. I had the pleasure of helping many people in various pursuits of research. To all of my patrons of the Archdiocese of Regina archives, I send you a big ‘Thank You!’ for inviting me into your stories and your projects; trusting me to support and guide you through your many exciting, challenging, and remarkable endeavours. It was especially exciting to connect with some colleagues in the Saskatoon Diocese to pay forward a marble altar for use in one of their churches. The stories that came out of the efforts to transport that beautiful item to its new home will entertain me for a long time.

I presented at the Archdiocesan Administrators’ Workshop in September, getting to visit with the many wonderful staff and volunteers that support our parish communities in administrating our churches. I was also able to tour a few more churches in the diocese this year, taking the time to appreciate the sacred spaces that enrich our lives.

With a little encouragement from a colleague, I was blessed to take part in a two-part feature on the archdiocesan podcast “Thinking Faith,” where I had the opportunity to share some insights on the field of archives and what it is like being an archivist.

These are just a few of the occasions that have marked the last year in the archives. While I tried to conduct my work and lead in modelling that, “God lives here,” over the course of this last year, it is really all of these instances that speak evidently to me, “God [indeed] lives here.” May this continue to be true in all that I do, in the collection I keep, and in the hearts of the people I serve. It remains my greatest honour to keep the history we have made and are making here in our pilgrim church on earth.

Thank you for your contributions to the Archbishop’s Annual Appeal this year. Because of your generosity, I get to preserve, protect, and share the memories of our community of faith.



Parish Pastoral Support Services

by Sharon Bender and Leona Burkhart

The Parish Pastoral Support Services department had another exciting year with many opportunities to visit parishes and parishioners. Visits and meeting with people is the part of the ministry that keeps us invigorated.

We continue to do audits, on a 5-year cycle, of parishes' protocol files, helping to ensure that parishioners are kept safe by the screening of volunteers. In addition to audits, we assist new volunteers who take on the role of Parish Volunteer Screening committee members learn what is necessary to screen volunteers. We have visited parishes, upon request, and assisted them with completing the volunteer forms. As new ministries are created, we assist volunteers with determining where the ministries fit within the protocol ministries or assist with writing a new descriptor.



Sharon Bender



Leona Burkhart

Our department is involved in the Human Resources of the Archdiocesan Office. We help with creating job descriptions and advertisements for employment positions. We facilitate the collection of applications and set up and assist with interviews. Once an employee has been offered a position, we contact references, ensure documents necessary for the position are provided and request Criminal Record Checks.

Parish constitutions are still being collected from parishes. There is a template available to be sure parishes are following the "Guidelines for the Parish Pastoral Council and the Parish Finance Council, Sept. 2021."

At the request of parishes, we have helped them go through a process to examine what they might do to revitalize their parish. This process is one of reflection and reimagining what they could do to create a more vibrant parish.

As part of the Organizational Facilities Committee (OFC), we have walked with several parishes who are examining their viability for the future. When a parish decides they can no longer continue, we assist them with the decommissioning process. This entails planning for and organizing a decommissioning mass with the Bishop presiding. It includes assisting with such practical things as identifying where parishioners will attend mass, finding homes for sacred items, identifying items that can be sold or given away, handling of the cemetery, if there is one, and planning for the sale of the property. In 2024, one church was decommissioned.

Also, under the auspices of OFC, we have helped a couple of parishes deal with some unique issues. Our role was to act as facilitators so that they could come up with solutions that allowed them to move forward.

Some of the Deaneries have asked us to enter into a discussion with them about what a Deanery is and what their role is in the Archdiocese. This was a process of examining what has been done and what our department could do to support parishes, deaneries and the Archdiocese.

Our department has regular meetings with Hospital Chaplains and Spiritual Care organizers so that we can share experiences and provide new information. The meetings give those involved a safe network of people to communicate with and share ideas, concerns and successes.

Workshops are continuously offered on a variety of topics. This year we have done 3-hour workshops for people involved in the care giving in care homes, hospitals and private homes. The Care Givers workshop is designed to help plan for participating in this ministry, do's and don'ts, protocols that need to be followed and how to support each other so volunteers do not burn out.

Horizons of Hope, a CCCB-developed program, is one of our workshops. It is a 6-hour workshop involving videos and discussion plus some paper resources that help people deal with people in palliative care. It is designed for care givers, family members, friends, even, people who have been diagnosed as palliative.

Our goal is to provide support for parishes. Whether it be through problem solving, discussion or workshops, we are happy to assist parishes in whatever way we are able to do. It is a pleasure to serve with the Archdiocese of Regina.

God bless!

Archdiocesan Theologian & Permanent Diaconate

by Dr. Brett Salkeld

Permanent Diaconate

Ken Fahlman and Martin Kondzieleski were ordained to the permanent diaconate at Holy Rosary Cathedral on June, 14, 2024. After ordination, Deacon Ken was assigned to St. Joseph's in Balgonie and serves in hospital ministry. Deacon Martin is at Christ the King in Regina and serves in care facilities in south Regina. This is the second cohort to be ordained since our Archdiocesan Diaconate Formation Program began nearly 10 years ago.

In the first half of 2024, as throughout the program, Ken and Martin were joined by Paul Wheeler and Nicholas Blom from the Diocese of Saskatoon. Early in 2024, Paul was diagnosed with terminal cancer. He was ordained to the Permanent Diaconate in the chapel of St. Paul's Hospital in Saskatoon on May 26, 2024, the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, with Ken, Martin, Nicholas, Deacon Barry Wood and I present for this special celebration. A particularly poignant moment came when Paul's brother diaconal candidates vested him, in his wheelchair, during the ceremony. Paul was welcomed into eternal life just two days later.

Discernment about when a third diaconate cohort might begin in our Archdiocese and what shape the program may take in the future began in the fall of 2024 and is ongoing.



Archdiocesan Theologian



In 2024, I also continued ministry in the areas of teaching, writing, speaking, and podcasting, helping the local and universal Church by equipping Catholics to know and love their faith.

The weekly Archdiocesan podcast "Thinking Faith!" (which I cohost with Deacon Eric Gurash) continued to be produced through 2024. It gives us a great opportunity to connect with both local guests, showcasing what is happening in the Church here in Saskatchewan, and experts from across North America on a wide range of important questions for Catholics today. But some of our favourite episodes are still when it is just the two of us talking about faith in Deacon Eric's office. Both of us love to hear from parishioners about their favourite episodes. And if you have

any questions that you think we should tackle, don't be shy to let us know.

After the publication of my most recent book, *Educating for Eternity: A Teacher's Companion for Making Every Class Catholic* in 2023, I have been receiving numerous invitations to work with Catholic educators across North America. In 2024, I made several trips to present to Catholic educators in schools, dioceses, and at conferences about integrating our Catholic faith across the curriculum.

Also in 2024, I completed my term of service on the national Roman Catholic-Evangelical Dialogue. I had represented the Canadian Conference of Bishops on this dialogue for over a decade and, by the time of my departure, was the last remaining original member.

Throughout 2024, I continued to write and publish my monthly column "Two Wings," on our Archdiocesan website and through Our Sunday Visitor in the United States. From questions about gender, to thinking through the implications of artificial intelligence, to columns about virtue or the sacraments, I use this venue to address things that matter to Catholics today.

And, of course, I was delighted to be able to continue supporting a wide variety of ministries here in the Archdiocese of Regina. It is always a delight to meet folks at the lay formation or spiritual director formation programs, through marriage preparation, RCIA, or parish retreats. If you'd like to talk about how I can support your parish or ministry, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Social Justice

by Tashia Toupin

The Pastoral Office often works in networks and partnerships. This year is no different. Regina Catholic School Division (RCSD) invited me to present on Catholic Social Teachings (CST) to its new teachers in January. This annual tradition is a highlight of the year, where the real-life applications of the rich tradition and teaching of the Church come to life in these evening formations. Providing professional development like this, where connections are made with passionate people, is always a great time!

Another similar annual formation I get to give is with the Lay Faith Formation Program. Over the three-year formation, I get to talk about CST: The Best Kept Secret, Missiology – the Mission of the Church, Sacramental Theology, Christology, Trinitarian Theology, Eucharist, and Theological Reflection. This is always a time of deep conversations, when we get to explore and grow in our faith and understanding of who God is and who we are created to be.



RCIA presentations are another avenue to meet and journey with people in their faith. If you are running an RCIA program, CST would be an excellent topic for your neophytes during their period of mystagogy. In Lent, I also got to go to Wilcox to give a presentation after Mass at the high school to the students and staff about some of the ways that they can get involved in Social Justice and live out their faith in concrete ways. Being Catholic is not just a thing you do for an hour on a Sunday, but a disposition, and a holistic way of being in the world.

For the last three years, I have been on the National Council (Board of Directors) of Development and Peace Caritas Canada (DPCC). The last two years I was on the Executive Committee as the Vice-President and the Secretary. This has been a time of growth and intentional learning as we work through our Strategic Plan, a new governance system, and we learn how to professionalize our board without leaving behind the passion and wisdom of our members-based representational structure from the past. This training has been helpful in the roles I play with DPCC, but also in helping to add structure and policies to the work at the Social Justice office.

The good functioning and relationship building between Caritas Canada and the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) has been a beautiful thing to see grow over these past few years. Because of my role on the National Council, I get to travel and was able to participate in three Regional Assemblies in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba, two in-person retreats in Montréal, and a working group project with Caritas Internationalis in Calgary. Last year, for my birthday, my mom got me luggage. I have used it a lot! Thanks Mom! Travel is important to help build and maintain our many relationships with our partners, staff, members, and the bishops.

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Social Justice (cont'd)



The focus on relationship building also enabled me to attend the CWL National Convention that was hosted in Saskatoon as a spokesperson for DPCC. 2025 will be my 20th year as a CWL member, and it was amazing to be surrounded by so many tenacious, faithful, and engaged female leaders from the Catholic Church in Canada. We discussed resolutions dealing with:

-the Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise to have Legal Authority to Investigate Environmental and Human Rights Abuses,

-National Universal Pharmacare Program to Include Coverage for Drugs Prescribed for Mental Illness, and

-Increasing Supported Housing for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness with Mental Health and Mental Illness Issues.

The conversations and depth of knowledge and care that went into crafting these resolutions were awesome. Not only did we get to see this model of faith in action, but we also were centred in prayer, networking, and having fun together. There were presentations from the Coady Institute, DPCC about the 1% Program with CWL and the projects that program funds, Catholic Missions In Canada shared on their mission and some of the Diocese they help to support, the Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA) presented on the work they do in the Holy Land, as well as many other CWL internal presentations. It was a fabulous time filled with prayer and community, engaged learning and hope as we gathered as Catholic Women committed to Faith, Service and Social Justice.



The Social Justice Commission has been working to put together a three-part seminar to help parish communities better understand the Catholic Social Teachings of the Church and use them as a lens to respond to the needs in their communities. This past year, the commission travelled out to Weyburn and to the Qu'Appelle Deanery. We are looking forward to going to Melville in 2025 and any other communities that are interested in inviting us out. We would love to come and journey with you in this Jubilee year as pilgrims together.

Refugee Sponsorship

by Tashia Toupin

As part of the humanitarian activities of the diocese, the Refugee Sponsorship Office of the Archdiocese of Regina sponsored several refugees during the year under review despite the challenge of limited spots given to us by the Immigration, Refugee Citizenship Canada (IRCC), a branch of the federal government. In 2024, as practiced annually, IRCC gave out an initial 25 spots to the archdiocese, just as same were handed to other Sponsorship Agreement Holders (SAHs). This is usually to cater for the needs of applications until the total number to be allocated is calculated and the balance is handed out. 10 more spots were given to us for a total of 35 spots. However, we had 17 unused spots for 2023, which were carried forward to 2024. In all, we were able to send applications to sponsor 52 people in 2024.

How Spaces Are Allocated:

Conventionally, workshops are held preceding the annual sponsorship process of the diocese. This is a session where co-sponsors (oftentimes family or friends of the refugees) are invited to get information on what they need to know concerning sponsorship in readiness to sponsor their loved ones. Spaces for the year were, however, allocated to different constituent groups (churches or communities) and individuals fairly, considering the vulnerabilities and urgency in cases as follows:

1. Good Shepherd Eritrean Community:

This is a constituent group consisting of Eritreans, who came together to help themselves spiritually and morally especially concerning their family and friends in their home country and in refugee camps. This group was given a total of **11 spots** for those they sponsored.

2. Holy Family Parish (Regina):

This parish, as a constituent group, sponsored **4 Pakistani** refugees currently taking refuge in Malaysia. They are working to support the reunification of a family member of their congregation.

3. Parliament Community Church (Regina):

This is a constituent group that sponsored **5 Syrian** refugees in Lebanon. They are doing what is called a "sponsor the stranger." Parliament Church is reaching out to help a Muslim friend to sponsor their family and bring them to a safe space.

4. Springside Baptist Church (Springside, SK):

This constituent group was allotted a total of **6 spots** or the sponsorship of a Chadian family in Saudi Arabia.

5. Cancelled Cases:

In 2023, the refugee office underwent an audit. Part of the internal audit resulted in us asking IRCC to cancel some active applications. During this process, some genuine cases were erroneously cancelled by IRCC. These genuine cases could not be reopened despite our best efforts, and so we had to accommodate these **11 people** in 2024.

6. Others:

15 spots were sponsored by different co-sponsors who did not have constituent groups; **6 of these** are for Afghans in Pakistan, **1 Burundian** in Uganda, while others were **Eritreans**.



Chad



Eritrea



Syria

continued...

Refugee Sponsorship (cont'd)

Annual Conference:

The SAH annual conference was held in September. Many issues were discussed, but one really stuck out to us: Relationships with Indigenous Peoples and Newcomers, and our role as primarily Settler Peoples welcoming Newcomers onto treaty land. Most of the issues raised were noted as the officials from IRCC promised they would improve in all areas to make the job a lot easier for all SAHs, as they see them as partners and that nothing should be done in isolation. This point is something that this office is exploring more, as there is a deep desire and commitment for our office to move forward in a good way in light of the realities of the past and current hurts and abuses particularly in regard to the Institutional Church and its members as groups and individuals. If this conversation is something you would like to share in, please reach out. We would love to hear and learn from you.

Challenges:

1. **Secondary Migration:** This is a situation where refugees decide to leave the community of settlement for another, contrary to the agreement signed by the co-sponsor before relocating to Canada. There are many legitimate reasons for this. We work with each family on a case-by-case basis to determine what is best for all parties involved.
2. **Funding:** A lot of co-sponsors are unable to meet the financial requirements to sponsor their family members. We are asking for church congregations to discern if this is something that they can help with. This can include cash donations, but also household items, clothes, food, and other items.
3. **Inadequate Spots:** More requests come in every year for sponsorship than we could ever accommodate. The global number of refugees is increasing at a horrendous rate. IRCC carefully monitors the number of refugees sponsored, as this is part of our federal budget.

THE WAY FORWARD:

As we progress in the years ahead, we hope that all challenges will be addressed and that emerging ones will also be dealt with. Importantly, we try on our part to improve the humanitarian services we offer to people to continuously give hope, be empathetic and pray, working with different groups to make life better for all refugees, including those already here.



Afghanistan



Burundi



Pakistan

Victim Services and Advocacy

by Pamela Walsh

At the beginning of 2024, there was renewed optimism that this might be the year when the church and non-victims would begin to understand the immense suffering endured by victims. There was a sense that the doors to parishes, which have opened for others but remained closed to victims, might swing open, allowing some victims to enter without fear.

The VSA, in its primary role, is honoured and privileged to continue supporting many victims. Providing assistance, listening to, and working with victims is personalized and carried out in the best way for each individual. Some individuals have shared their experiences through the diocese's formal reporting system, while others have chosen to recount their stories privately, seeking to be heard, acknowledged, and supported. As discussions about clergy sexual abuse persist, more individuals are stepping forward to share their experiences. This aspect is central to the VSA, and once again, the number of individuals it has helped has increased.

There were educational opportunities in 2024 in addition to the VSA's primary role. These included international presentations, sessions with newly arrived or ordained priests, prayer services, and participation in workshops or events to support victims who requested the VSA's presence. Many of these encouraged spontaneous, organic discussions about the lifelong impact of clergy sexual abuse, not only on victims but also on their communities and parishes.

The International Anglican-Roman Catholic Commission for Unity and Mission (IARCCUM) 2024 summit invited co-presenters Mandy Marshall, Project Director for Gender Justice at the Anglican Communion Office in London; Hans Zollner from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome; and Pamela Walsh, the VSA from the Archdiocese of Regina, to share insights on clergy sexual abuse and safeguarding. On January 27th the panel presented to 27 pairs of Anglican and Catholic bishops gathered in England. The VSA participated via Zoom and shared these concluding remarks: "I urge the 54 bishops here today to unite on a specific day in Lent, bringing Catholics and Anglicans together as one in 27 countries to pray The Way of the Cross: Through Victims Voices and to experience the profound brokenness and suffering alongside those who may have once been part of the entire body, allowing them to feel less alone in their solitude and grow together."

The second opportunity arose from the ongoing relationships with members of the Christchurch Diocese in New Zealand. In February, a framework for a presentation to the New Zealand Tribunal staff and volunteers was developed for March 23. However, technical issues resulted in a change in the delivery method of the presentation. Ultimately, the attendees conveyed their deep appreciation for the chance to access additional resources to support victims of clergy sexual abuse.

Prayer services give people the chance to hear the pain and sorrow experienced by victims. Regina's Holy Child hosted two prayer services this year, both attended by the VSA. During Lent, they held "The Way of the Cross: Through the Voice of Victims." In November, Bishop Don joined the parish and participated in the "The Light Shines Through Broken Places" prayer service, which featured engaging conversations afterward.

With the VSA present, the third annual Archdiocesan English live-streamed Way of the Cross: Through the Voice of Victims attracted approximately 40 attendees and an additional 186 online viewers. Regina's St. Jean Baptiste hosted the second annual French Way of the Cross Through the Voice of Victims, welcoming around 15 participants in person and approximately 40 joining online. The live streaming of these services has allowed those unable to attend in person for various reasons to participate from the comfort of their homes or alongside others. Many expressed their gratitude for the support, connecting with the experiences of abuse and the pain conveyed in these services.

The pastoral misconduct policy continued to be developed in 2024. Although the VSA was not directly involved in its creation, they were invited to review and provide input during the drafting process from February to August. The final draft was adopted in October. Like all living documents, it will undergo revisions, with the first set to commence in March 2025.

The synod process began to wind down in 2024 with two significant events. The first took place during March and April, culminating in the completion of the final diocese document, which was eventually sent to Rome. In November, "Pilgrims of Hope: Together in Mission" occurred, featuring a guest speaker who shared key points from Rome's final document. Many victims expressed to the VSA that both events lacked input from victims and left them feeling increasingly alienated.

The VSA has increasingly been invited to attend and participate in meetings, events, and gatherings, serving as a voice for those who, due to the trauma of clergy sexual abuse, are unable to attend or, when present, cannot receive support as needed if the VSA did not attend. Two notable events included the Arch Regina Congress: Pilgrims of Hope on Sept. 21 and the Pilgrims of Hope: Together in Mission on Nov. 9.

As 2024 drew to a close, many victims expressed their frustration over the ongoing absence of victim-friendly parishes. They questioned why the VSA was not involved in planning diocesan events to foster inclusivity. Others noted that even as the cathedral doors opened, signalling the beginning of the 2025 Jubilee, it was evident that the church remained firmly closed to victims while welcoming everyone else and closing off hope to those locked out. The optimism many felt at the start of the year had completely faded away.



Catechetical Support for Parishes

by Robert Barr

“Among the laity who become evangelizers, catechists have a place of honour.”

– St. John Paul the Great

The year 2024 was a great year to see hopes coming to fruition. While some projects took a back seat for those of more interest, we eventually see God’s hand at work. As much as we strive to see God’s hand in the moment, we often don’t see His hand until later. Our Catechists can attest to this as they hand on the faith and I am reminded this should be a lesson in trust.



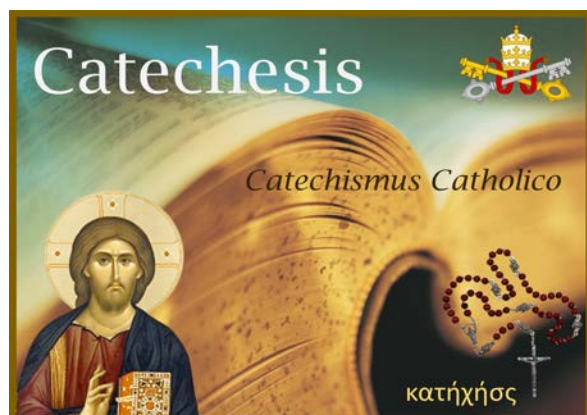
2024 was an extra special year of gratitude. Along with giving thanks to God for the generous donors of the Archbishop’s Appeal, we were especially blessed to receive donations specifically earmarked for the good work of the catechesis department. It is legacy gifts from the Ursuline Sisters of Prelate and the Archbishop’s Appeal that provide Catechesis Support to all Catechists in both rural and urban parishes.

In 2024, many rural parishes received a visit by myself alone and also through traveling with the Archbishop to Confirmations in rural areas. Visits to rural and urban parishes are important as they provide opportunities for moral support and a share in celebrating the fruits of their hard work first-hand in real-time.

From the beginning, among the goals of the Catechetical Support Office is to have parishes participate in on-going catechesis for all ages and especially to those newly confirmed. Our office was able to provide a few parishes with resources and instruction. It is the wish of the Catechesis Department that the idea of continuing catechesis for all ages is picked up by all parishes – both city and rural along with establishing a children’s liturgy program.

Last year brought some considerable movement toward Catechist formation. Coupled with the desire for education and formation from Catechists across the Archdiocese, the Catechesis Office has long recognized the need for this. The Catechesis office tested options for Catechist Formation and education for the purpose of offering in 2025.

A highlight of 2024 was the results of the Synod report of the Regina Archdiocese. I am proud to report that the responses of the Catechists confirmed the direction of the Catechesis Office. It was enlightening and reassuring to learn that the office is on the right path and shares the same concerns as catechists. We will continue on that path.



We are grateful for the privilege of serving the Catechists of the Archdiocese. We ask for your prayers each year and this year is no different. We pray for our Catechists daily; to always prayerfully serve them “where they are at” as witnesses to the Gospel and ministers of truth.

Visitation House

by Theresa Hilbig



I ponder the greatness of the Lord, who has blessed us with another fruitful year of “women helping women” at Visitation House!

The first few months of 2024, brought an increase of the number of women coming to Visitation House. Although the weather was very cold, there was not a day that did not bring visitors! Some of our visitors are moms with several children.

Many of our visitors were living on the street and are deeply addicted. They come for a change of clothes, food, religious items and prayer. They want help to get off drugs. However, they are happy to have a place to be safe, and experience some quiet and peace, for a little while.

When I listen to these women, I want so badly to help them. When we have given them food, clothes and hygiene items, they go back out on the street. I am never sure if I will ever see them again.

I hear many stories of trauma happening in the neighborhood. Women have witnessed overdoses, assaults and other forms of violence. However, it is not all sadness. There are also joy-filled stories! Grandmothers proudly show off pictures of their latest grandchildren, pick up clothes, toys and snacks to offer to these little ones.

There were times where outside of Visitation House, and even inside, seemed volatile. There were people under the influence, standing around the entrance to Visitation House. At times, I had people come into the centre that could have been considered a safety risk. As a result, I started bringing my dog to work, every once in a while. This accomplished two objectives: the loitering outside stopped, and the women quite enjoyed her presence!

My faithful volunteers have been my rock throughout this past year. I would also like to thank all the Board members: Marlene has served since our board's inception and Deana has been with us for many years, chairing our meetings. Phyllis, thank you for continuing to support, and offer your ideas. Michelle, thank you for always taking and reporting the minutes in such an organized way. Thank you to Jan and Marc, our newest members, and to our new volunteer Lana.



Marlene and Lucille, you are angels, who always leave the centre way better than you found it. Your prayers around the table are blessed and your food is always so delicious. Laureen, thank you for your faithfulness, your ingenious cooking skills, and driving me around when I was not able to drive.

Many teachers and students have come to the centre to offer supplies and help. In December, teachers of St. Theresa's school did a fine job of sorting gift items to be put into the Christmas bags for the women and children. We had a lovely Christmas celebration. Joan and Wayne Zook contributed (as always) a cooked turkey, potatoes, gravy and many boxes of bread, buns and sweets!

Little Flower Parish brings food for our pantry on a monthly basis. St. Martin's Parish, Holy Family, Our Lady of La Salette and Ecole St. Elizabeth's School always remember us at Christmas, and throughout the year. St. Peter's CWL, St. Cecilia's, Holy Cross, St. Bernadette School, and St. Kateri School, the Romano Family, Darci and Darren Lang, CWLs, Knights of Columbus and other parishes have also contributed to us over the year.

My heart is filled with gratitude for Fr. John Weckend, who has spearheaded the team for the QCM Run for 23 years. Every year we receive approximately \$10,000.00 from those who sponsor this effort, so over the years, Fr. John and his crew have given us approximately \$230,000.00. Fr. John is also our Priest Liaison, sitting on our Advisory Board, for many years. What a wonderful supporter you are!

I would like to thank the whole Catholic Community for your undying support of the work we do at Visitation House. You have allowed me to work side by side with so many vulnerable women and children. This position has been the greatest gift I could have ever received. My faith has grown, as has my compassion. God bless everyone who supports this beautiful Ministry!

Vocations

by Fr. Parker Love, Vocations Director

The laying on of hands, central to the Catholic rite of priestly ordination, is a powerful sign of continuity with the apostolic Church and a reminder that every vocation is a response to a divine call. Rooted in Scripture—where Moses laid hands on Joshua to commission him, and the apostles did the same to entrust ministry to others—this gesture symbolizes the transmission of the Holy Spirit and the conferral of sacred authority. In the New Testament, Paul speaks of the spiritual gift imparted to Timothy through the laying on of hands, highlighting that vocations are not self-generated but received through the Church by the grace of God.

Today, this ancient sign speaks directly to the Church's ongoing need for vocations. When a bishop lays hands on a man being ordained, it is not just a ritual—it is the visible expression of the Church entrusting him with the mission of Christ. It reminds us that vocations arise within the Body of Christ and are sustained by prayer, discernment, and the life of the community. In an age that often emphasizes personal ambition and self-direction, the laying on of hands testifies that a true vocation is about surrender, service, and a call that comes from beyond oneself, affirmed and nurtured by the Church.



In the summer of 2024, Archbishop Don Bolen ordained Fr Daniel Malone by the laying on of his hands. This action was the fulfillment of his vocation, but it is not the only vocation, nor is it the only way that vocations find their fulfillment.

When a couple exchanges vows and are blessed by the Church, a couple realizes the fullness of their vocation in marriage. When a woman makes promises of perpetual virginity, another vocation is fulfilled. It's been said that there are as many vocations as there are people in the world, which means there are as many ways for those vocations to find their fulfillment. While some might share similarities, each of us has a unique call from God that will be how we find fulfillment and holiness in our lives.

Our responsibility as Catholics who have already fulfilled their vocation is to live the ultimate vocation of a Catholic—that is, the universal call to holiness. When we live our call to holiness, we encourage others to live that call and their particular call. As members of the Catholic faithful, you can support vocations by prayer, certainly, but by the action of living a holy life as well.

Indigenous Relations

by Susan Beaudin

The Year 2024 for the Truth and Reconciliation Committee (TRC) co-chaired by Bishop Bolen and Susan Beaudin was very busy yet full of hope and love. The TR Committee brought together by Bishop Don Bolen is an Indian Residential School survivor-led group whose role is to help guide the Archdiocese and its parishes in walking with Indigenous Peoples in a good way through projects funded by the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund (IRF) funds.

The primary purpose of the TRC is to assist First Nations and Metis survivor-led urban and rural First Nations to apply successfully for IRF funding that respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action #61. These survivor-led local projects are in the areas of healing and reconciliation for communities and families, culture and language revitalization, education and community building and dialogues involving Indigenous elders, spiritual leaders and youth with focus on Indigenous spirituality and culture.

The secondary purpose of projects will be to engage Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in walking and working together, including where possible their spiritual/ceremonial leaders including support and engagement from members of local parishes.

An urban committee (UC) has been established to reach out to the survivors residing in Regina and other urban communities within the boundaries of the Archdiocese of Regina. A major initiative of the Urban committee is the Regina Community Healing (RCH) project where survivor-led groups such as the Regina Survivors Circle (RSC) and the Circle of Allies (CoA) walk together to learn about one another by planning events that highlight Indigenous ways of knowing and doing. The RCH project is guided by ceremonial Elders and the Regina IRS survivors. The RSC and CoA have regular monthly meetings.



National Day of Truth and Reconciliation



BBQ at Candy Cane Park

continued...

Indigenous Relations (cont'd)

In 2024, the following events and activities were held (Igniting the Spirit of Reconciliation: 94 Calls to Action, (February), Pipe Ceremony and Feast (May), Women and Girls Teachings Workshop & National Truth and Reconciliation (Orange Shirt Day) (September), and Ribbon Skirt Making (November). An Outreach Committee was established to assist 26 rural First Nations communities in planning survivor-led projects.

A great project “The Sacred Four—Re-awakening Ancestral Ways of Knowing” was planned and carried out Starblanket First Nation. Four First Nations have completed their projects, and four more projects are ready to go. Many community projects focus on reviving their language, traditions, customs and traditional teachings. The Elders have said and continue to say, “we must go back to our ceremonies and teachings”. IRF projects are one way to do this.



Women & Girls Teachings with Gladys Wapass-Greyeyes



Ribbon Skirt-making

The Archdiocese of Regina is walking together with First Nations people to hear the truth about what happened in RC run Indian Residential Schools and to be honest about the church’s part in acknowledging the abuses that took place in them and their legacy. The IRF projects offers a tangible way to bring healing and foster real reconciliation.

The work of the TRC is important and the members are committed to honouring survivors by addressing the past and focusing on the needs of survivors and intergenerational survivors. The work will continue to bring healing and hope that is greatly needed in these times.

Valley Native Ministry

by Sr. Bernadette Feist, osu



Our ministry continued during the first half of 2024. We visited elders, brought communion to people in hospital, and helped with many sacraments and 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. I spent much time downsizing before retiring in the summer.

Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry

by Braden Kuntz and Michelle Braden

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" He called a child, whom he put among them, and said, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me." -Matthew 18:1-5

Young people are held uniquely close to God's heart, which is something the Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry is acutely aware of. In an effort to welcome all of God's children in His name, we have been hard at work this past year providing opportunities for our young people to encounter Christ, as well as working with parishes and volunteers so that they may do the same.

Below are a few highlights from this past year in ministry.



The theme for this year's diocesan youth rally was "Uncover The Mystery". Participants came from all over Southern Sask. and we even enjoyed the company of a group from Saskatoon. Ryan Mitchell provided the keynote and invited the 160 participants to consider how they could grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ. 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 five-day camp experience for teens and young adults seeking to grow in faith and leadership. This year's theme was "A Journey Through Time" and brought together 43 campers and over a dozen leaders for five days of prayer, learning, growing and being challenged. There was also a two-day retreat for our young adult community that took place just before Leadership Camp kicked off, which not only meet the needs of our young adults but also helps our camp leaders prepare spiritually for a week of service. Overall, it was another amazing experience of camp.

CCYMN

The Canadian Catholic Youth Ministry Network (CCYMN) held their annual gathering of Youth Ministry Directors in Oxley, ON. We were grateful to be able to attend and represent the Archdiocese of Regina at this national gathering, where we spent some time discerning how we can best advocate for and support youth ministry initiatives all over Canada.

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Youth Ministry (cont'd)

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 “Wonder”. 700 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.

Summer Camps

In addition to Leadership Camp, our Archdiocese has four unique summer camps that operate within its boundaries: Camp Kenosee, Camp Lemieux, Camp Monahan, and Camp O'Neill. This past year, we had the opportunity to bring some young adults with us to Camp Lemieux, where we were able to spend time cleaning and doing some maintenance, while also providing a retreat experience for some of their leaders. It's always a joy to work alongside our camps, and are excited to continue doing exactly that!



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 in 2023 with one parish that took youth ministry out of the parish walls and into the schools. Since then, we've worked hard in crafting this new way of approaching parish youth ministry that focuses on 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. But it's not just us who see the possibilities – this year also saw us begin the planning phase of taking this model into a second parish community. We are so excited about the possibilities, and look forward to helping more communities explore this new approach in the coming year.

Retreat Ministry

This past year we were excited to once again welcome NET Canada's travelling team to our Archdiocese. While here, they ran retreats for several school communities including Yorkton, Regina, Estevan, and Weyburn. Our office has a particular passion for retreat ministry, and so are incredibly grateful for the work that NET Canada does, both within our Archdiocese and nationally. In addition to NET, we were also able to facilitate several retreats over the course of this past year, offering experiences to youth, young adults, and wider parish communities. If your parish would be interested in a retreat, please don't hesitate to reach out!

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. If you are unsure where to start, that's okay! We would love to be invited to your community and explore how we can best support our young people together.

Ecumenical & Interfaith Relations

by Nicholas Jesson

Some time ago, 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 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 advocacy on climate justice, homelessness, and poverty 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.



I have continued to compile the **IARCCUM.org** archive of the Anglican-Roman Catholic Dialogue on behalf of the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity and the Anglican Communion. I also edit the **Margaret O'Gara Dialogue Collection** for the Canadian Council of Churches (CCC). This website is an archive of the Canadian bilateral dialogues.

I also serve on the **Anglican-Roman Catholic Dialogue of Canada**. We have just completed a study of the "Theology of Church Apologies," and are now discerning the next topic of our work. I am now a member of the CCC's **Commission on Faith & Witness** representing the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. The latest project of this Commission was on "The Church in a Digital Age."

During the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the Archdiocese partnered on the **De Margerie Lecture Series** for a second year with the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism, St. Thomas More College, Campion College, the Saskatoon Theological Union, and the Diocese of Saskatoon. Our speaker was Rev. Dr. Karen Petersen Finch, a professor at the Presbyterian College in Montréal. Her lectures were titled: "Re-Imagining Lay People as Stewards of Doctrine" and "Doctrine as Fuel of Renewal".

I have been on the leadership team for **KAIROS Regina**, a local affiliate of KAIROS Canada. In January 2024, the group gathered a panel of engineers to discuss the use of heat pumps on the Prairies. The event was well-attended, and there remains continuing interest among those already committed to responding to climate change. However, it is difficult to raise this issue in Saskatchewan where the economy is heavily dependent on the oil patch. I joined a KAIROS Canada team to plan a consultation at Wanuskewin Heritage Centre in May. The event gathered various sectors including academics, labour, business, government, faith groups, and youth to help foster a **conversation on a "just transition."**

Concerns about the **Gaza/Israel war** have led to tensions here as well as across Canada. Compassion for those in Gaza has led many churches to issue strong statements of sympathy and support, however these are easily misunderstood. I have found myself insisting that 1) we cannot walk away from our commitment to dialogue and friendship with the Jewish community, and 2) we cannot endorse any statement that we cannot share with our Jewish friends. I remain in close contact with Rabbi Jeremy Parnes to ensure that the Jewish community feels supported. He has shared stories of blatant hatred including people yelling insults and spitting on his members. Even in peaceful Regina, the synagogue has reported vandalism. In May, I worked with KAIROS Regina to hold a **prayer vigil at the Peace Pole** in Rotary Park. We sat on the grass and sang peace songs, talked, and shared a few prayers and hopes for a more peaceful world.

2024 was an **election year in Saskatchewan**. This made it difficult to advocate for justice issues such as poverty. I found that I needed to carefully articulate **Catholic teaching on conscience** to my friends in ecumenical justice networks. We cannot issue political statements to our members that interfere with the exercise of prudence. In the end, we needed to withdraw the Archdiocese from one group that was determined to issue election materials that we saw as problematic.

The Synod in Rome continued to occupy much of my time. In the Synod Final Report, the **ecumenical dimensions of synodality** have become clearer. Ecumenical ideas like the gift exchange have been cited by the delegates and in public reflections during the Synod. The Final Report draws considerably on the work of dialogues on ecclesiology, emphasizing the understanding of the **church as koinonia (communion)**, which is present in Vatican II but has reached a greater maturity in this report. In November, we hosted two speakers that had attended the Synod. Fr. Ray Lafontaine, who attended the Synod as a table facilitator, led a Synod study day in Regina for clergy and another for lay people. Also in November, Dr Catherine E. Clifford, a professor of theology from Ottawa who was a lay delegate at the Synod, gave a lecture at Campion College and led a study session for Archdiocesan staff.

In June, I attended the **Saskatchewan Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada** where they elected a new bishop, Ali Tote. Archbishop Don Bolen, Bishop Mark Hagemoen, and I attended Bishop Ali's consecration in October, where Archbishop Don brought greetings on behalf of the ecumenical bishops' gathering. The ELCIC has elected three new bishops in 2024, and there will be another elected in 2025. This may present new opportunities for ecumenical growth.

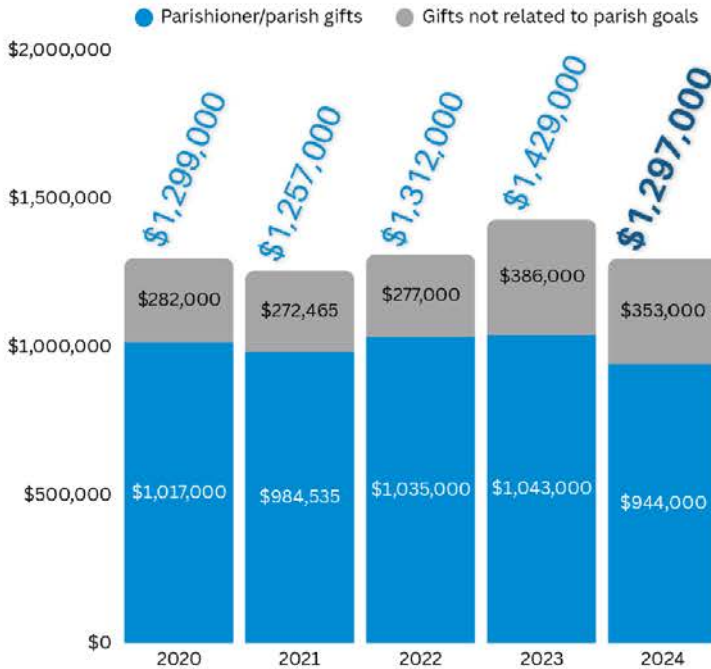
Finally, I must pay tribute to **Fr. Bernard de Margerie**, who died on March 3, 2024. His funeral in Saskatoon, had the most ecumenical attendance of any occasion in my memory. Many clergy and laypeople from a diversity of churches were there to pay tribute to the spiritual father of ecumenism in Saskatchewan. At the reception following the funeral, prayers were offered, memories shared, and a few songs were sung by representatives of all these groups.

Development Office

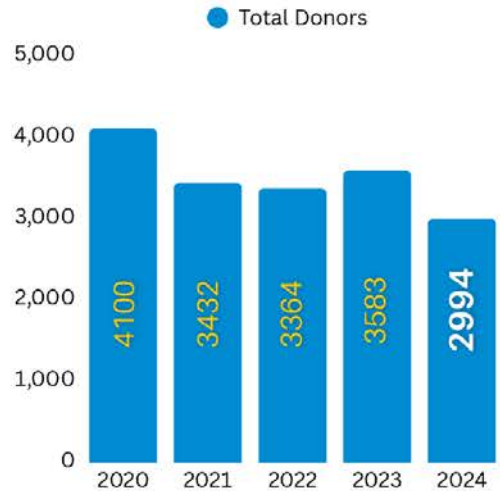
Archbishop's Appeal - 2024 Campaign



Gifts Received with 5 year trend



Total Donors with 5 year trend



Giving Levels

| GIVING LEVEL | | TOTAL RECEIVED | AVERAGE GIFT SIZE | CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR |
|----------------|-----|----------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| \$100K or more | 2 | \$340,000 | 170,000 | ↑ |
| \$10K - \$99K | 6 | \$83,000 | \$1,386 | ↓ |
| \$1K - \$9,999 | 214 | \$362,000 | \$1,692 | ↓ |
| \$500 - \$999 | 302 | \$175,000 | \$579 | ↓ |
| \$200 - \$499 | 774 | \$206,000 | \$266 | ↓ |
| \$100 - \$199 | 853 | \$96,000 | \$113 | ↓ |
| \$99 and under | 843 | \$35,000 | \$42 | ↓ |

Parish Gifts by Deanery

| DEANERY NAME | GOAL | RECEIVED | % OF GOAL |
|-------------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------|
| Qu'Appelle | \$61,000 | \$23,000 | 38% |
| Swift Current | \$103,000 | \$62,000 | 60% |
| Esterhazy | \$103,000 | \$34,000 | 33% |
| Weyburn | \$116,000 | \$80,000 | 69% |
| Yorkton / Melville | \$121,000 | \$51,000 | 42% |
| Estevan | \$132,000 | \$85,000 | 64% |
| Moose Jaw / Gravelbourg | \$137,000 | \$68,000 | 50% |
| Regina West | \$284,000 | \$252,000 | 89% |
| Regina East | \$343,000 | \$289,000 | 84% |
| PARISH TOTALS | \$1,400,000 | \$944,000 | 67% |

Appeal Gifts Support Our Archdiocesan Priorities

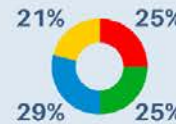
BUILD: Vital & Viable Parish Faith Communities

ENGAGE: In Dialogue for Outreach, Justice & Reconciliation

LIVE: Evangelization & Discipleship by

GROW: In Faithful & Responsible Stewardship

- Facilitating encounters with Jesus,
- Equipping disciples to live as authentic witnesses,
- Forming and supporting strong lay leaders & clergy



Development Office (cont'd)

Catholic TRC Healing Response

In 2021, The Archdiocese of Regina made a commitment of \$2 million to the TRC Healing Fund, contributing to the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB)'s goal of raising \$30 million for reconciliation efforts. These funds empower initiatives that inspire healing, promote cultural revitalization, and build lasting, positive relationships with Indigenous communities, fostering a future of hope and unity.

For information on the National Indigenous Reconciliation Fund, please visit: www.irfund.ca

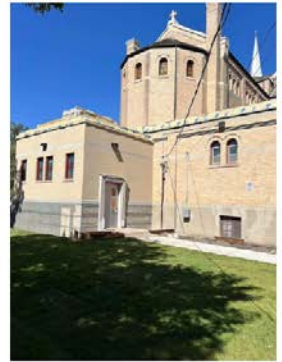
By the end of 2024, we have received funds of \$1.66 million towards our \$2 million commitment and a large portion of the funds were forwarded to the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund.

83%

Rebuilding Our Church Capital Campaign

In 2024, construction on Phase 1 of Cathedral Renewal was completed. Holy Rosary now has an accessible washroom on the main floor and one in the basement, as well as a new accessible elevator and entrance on the west side of the church. The crumbling south stair has been replaced, and no longer threatens the integrity of the building's foundation.

Planning and design work for Phase 2 (Towers and North Façade) and Phase 3 (Infrastructure and Lower Level) was also initiated in 2024. We will connect with donors interested in supporting these phases in 2025.



Gravelbourg Co-Cathedral Preservation Endowment Fund



On November 22, 2024, the Gravelbourg Preservation Committee celebrated the launch of their preservation endowment fund with a gala held at Our Lady of the Assumption Co-Cathedral. The event was a breathtaking display of musical talent, set against the stunning backdrop of the co-cathedral's historic architecture.

The Development Department supported the celebration by inviting guests to attend, assisting in welcoming potential supporters at the event, and promoting media coverage to raise awareness of the committee's preservation efforts across the Archdiocese.

Parish Support

The Development Department supported parish fundraising efforts by offering strategic planning, resources, donor engagement, and promotional materials—depending on the needs of a particular parish. This included support for formal campaigns such as Phase Two of the *Together in Faith Campaign* at St. Joseph's Parish in Moose Jaw and the *Raise the Roof Capital Campaign* at Holy Family Parish in Regina, as well as several other informal parish-led initiatives.

Financial Officer's Report

Chelsey Kress

"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1). This past year brought with it many such seasons —ones of deep transition, loss, and change.

I stepped into the role of Financial Officer in July 2024, to lead a team navigating heaviness and change. We've honored the retirement of a long-serving colleague, and we've grieved the sudden passing of another.

Turning to the Father in all things, He has been our constant, offering grace and perseverance. The year has been a testimony to trust, resilience, and faithful work through all seasons.

As we look ahead to 2025, we do so as pilgrims of hope - aware of the past and expectant for what lies ahead.

Annual Report

FOR FISCAL YEAR JANUARY 1, 2024 - DECEMBER 31, 2024

| REVENUE* | 2024 | 2023 |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Donations ¹ | \$ 2,522,000 | \$ 2,770,000 |
| Diocesan Assessments | \$ 1,163,000 | \$ 1,117,000 |
| Investments | \$ 667,000 | \$ 498,000 |
| Recoveries | \$ 2,412,000 | \$ 2,290,000 |
| Other | \$ 177,000 | \$ 402,000 |
| TOTAL REVENUE | \$ 6,940,000 | \$ 7,077,000 |

| EXPENSES* | 2024 | 2023 |
|------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Ministry & Pastoral Services | \$ 4,358,000 | \$ 4,449,000 |
| Management & Admin | \$ 1,215,000 | \$ 1,281,000 |
| Grants | \$ 496,000 | \$ 997,000 |
| Fundraising | \$ 100,000 | \$ 132,000 |
| Other | \$ 138,000 | \$ 198,000 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$ 6,307,000 | \$ 7,057,000 |

*Numbers are rounded to the nearest thousand.

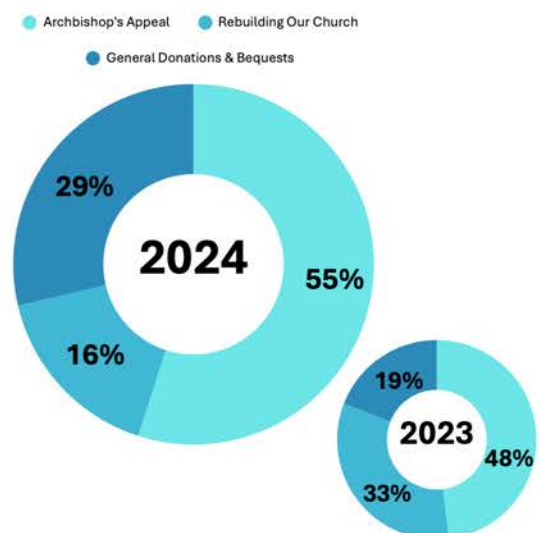


ARCHDIOCESAN FINANCE COUNCIL

Thank you to all of those who served during the 2024 year: Annette Polasek (Chair), Ron Kruzeniski (past Chair), Very Rev. Brian Meredith, Very Rev. James Owolagba, Rev. Harper Boucher, James Gustafson, John Dipple, Jim Graham, Christina Herauf, Ray Arcscott, Gwen Herman.

Thank You

¹Donations - Summary



Audited financial statements can be found here:

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



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