



Archidiocèse de
Saint-Boniface
Archdiocese

2020-2021 REPORT

ARCHDIOCESE OF SAINT-BONIFACE

June 2021



DEAR PRIESTS, DEACONS, WOMEN AND MEN RELIGIOUS, AND LAY FAITHFUL OF THE ARCHDIOCESE,

The years go by, and yet things are not necessarily the same from one year to the next. This has certainly been the case for the 2020-21 pastoral and fiscal year. We had just finished planning the 2020 pastoral year and the annual budget for the Archdiocese of Saint Boniface when we were forced to rethink everything in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Now more than ever, we need to rely on the Holy Spirit to show us how to proceed from one month, one week, and even from one day to the next to ensure that we remain united in Christ and that we are living our Christian faith in peace: "But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you." (John 14:26) We have an excellent ally in the Holy Spirit, on whom we can always rely for guidance.

In order to continue providing spiritual nourishment to the faithful of the Archdiocese and to support those in need, the Diocesan Centre personnel have expedited communication by various means, fostered dialogue between parishes, and made appropriate use of technology. We have been able to gather virtually for liturgical celebrations from the time the very first public health restrictions were enacted. To some extent, I believe we are better connected to people from every corner of our vast archdiocese thanks to our increased use of virtual means of communication.

From a financial perspective, the Archdiocese has supported parishes in obtaining government subsidies, minimized its expenses, and reduced the Diocesan Tax to ensure the financial survival of parishes, all while continuing to serve the parishes. At the beginning of the pandemic, we were anticipating that our deficit would increase significantly. Thanks to the generous response of the faithful toward the Good Shepherd Campaign, which received \$121,462 more than in 2019-20, the deficit is manageable. At \$130,407, this deficit is concerning, but not alarming given the circumstances. I sincerely thank you for your generosity!

In this report, Mireille Grenier, Director of Pastoral Services, and Richard Fréchette, Diocesan Financial Administrator until recently, highlight a few key elements of our efforts this year, as shown by the investment of human and financial resources allocated to them. I dare hope and pray that this financial report for 2020-21 demonstrates that the diocesan team has been especially attentive to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and has discerned and carried out its role.

I also pray that the Holy Spirit would comfort you, and that God would bless you and your loved ones, keep you safe from all danger, and strong in love and compassion among you.



+ Albert LeGat

+ARCHBISHOP ALBERT LEGATT
ARCHBISHOP OF SAINT-BONIFACE



A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR OF PASTORAL SERVICES

The Archdiocese of Saint Boniface's Pastoral Services have had to adapt, as has the rest of the world, in order to continue providing services during the pandemic. We were determined to continue fulfilling our mission, recognizing that faith comforts and brings people together in a particular way in times of trial. Rising to the challenge of remaining at the service of our parishes during the pandemic, we applied ourselves to finding new ways to carry out our ministry. A few of the initiatives undertaken by the diocesan team are outlined below:

1) Shared Experiences of Parish Leadership

One of our first initiatives consisted of reaching out to those in leadership positions in our parishes. Through virtual meetings, the priests, Parish Life Directors, and lay leaders shared their struggles with us concerning the public health restrictions, and they reflected collectively on solutions for overcoming these challenges; this was a cooperative effort that fostered a sense of teamwork. These meetings were a source of encouragement for the parishes and the diocese.

2) The Safety of Our Faithful

In the context of these diocesan meetings, the diocesan staff also provided clarifications regarding the implementation of public health measures. From the start of the pandemic, the Communications Coordinator has been a liaison between the provincial authorities and the parishes on this matter; this has been a service of utmost importance to ensure the safety of our faithful and a considerable effort due to the regular revisions to the provincial orders.

3) Virtual Workshops

The different Pastoral Services regularly ensure the initial and ongoing formation of those responsible for catechesis and youth ministry, among others, in the parishes. Throughout the pandemic, the parish ministries have continued to rely on our team for formation, so we have been exercising our creativity! Thanks to the Internet and videoconferencing tools, we have been able to gather people from all four corners of the archdiocese on numerous occasions.

In the past, we have prioritized in-person meetings in order to foster human contact and dialogue. Throughout the pandemic, those in parishes, chaplaincies, and missions, as well as Diocesan Centre personnel have all gained a greater appreciation for technology and have learned to use it as a tool for evangelization. In ordinary times, some people were unable to attend the formation offered by the Diocesan Centre due to distance. A perfect example is that of the religious sisters who ensure services in our Northern communities, who would normally have been unable to participate in the fall workshops for catechists due to the travel time. Even though we are eager to see the faithful of the Archdiocese in person once again, we will continue to rely on technology, especially to reach those in the more remote areas of our diocese.

I would like to conclude by mentioning that I am extremely proud of the work accomplished by the members of the Pastoral Services and Administrative Services teams. We were presented a big challenge at the beginning of the 2020-21 fiscal year, and we have had to quickly change our plans to respond to the immediate needs of our parishes. Everyone had a role to play in order to properly accompany those in the parishes. Thanks to a collective effort and a spirit of teamwork within the Archdiocese, we have faced and continue to face the repercussions of the pandemic together. Thank you to our colleagues in the parishes!

In this year dedicated to St. Joseph, let us ask him specifically to intercede in our favour in order to grant us the courage necessary to accomplish the will of God, regardless of the new challenges we will need to overcome.

MIREILLE GRENIER



STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

For the Period from February 1, 2020 to January 31, 2021 *La Corporation Archépiscopale Catholique Romaine de Saint-Boniface*

REVENUES FROM OPERATIONS

	2021	2020
Recoveries - Property and Group Insurance, and others	1,216,936	1,251,904
Diocesan Tax (10-20%)	814,264	1,456,751
Priests' Pension Plan	562,714	521,240
Apartment and office rentals for 622 Taché and other buildings	464,981	408,475
Donations and Bequests	445,795	675,952
Return on Investments	430,818	821,089
Good Shepherd Campaign	390,936	269,474
Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy	317,669	0
Grants from Catholic Missions in Canada	213,338	236,375
National Collections	134,422	218,962
Total Revenue from Operations	4,991,874	5,860,222

OPERATING EXPENSES

Pastoral Services Expenses:

First Nations Missions	379,762	501,297
Formation for Seminarians, for Deacons, and for Priests	322,277	433,169
Cultural Integration and Formation of Foreign Priests	108,001	101,700
Pastoral Services Office	98,481	106,450
Communications	91,315	76,401
Catechetics	83,268	86,755
Financial Aid to Parishes in Need	59,833	78,179
Youth Ministry	53,251	60,380
Chancery Office	52,228	77,180
Marriage, Family and Respect for Life	51,019	74,571
Marriage Tribunal	45,033	65,205
Diocesan Gala and Donation to the St. Boniface Cathedral for the Renovation Project	41,921	111,605
Lay Formation	32,732	56,342
Other Pastoral Services	24,076	52,638
St. Boniface Hospital Ministry	19,705	23,661
Diocesan Charities	16,646	24,938
Sub-Total of Operating Expenses: Pastoral Services	1,479,546	1,930,471

Other Operating Expenses

Parish Property and Group Insurance Premiums	1,116,434	1,008,997
Archbishop's Office and Diocesan Administration	841,318	897,563
Priests Pensions and Rent Paid to Villa Aulneau for Priests' Residences	791,922	803,414
Maintenance, Major Repairs and Utilities	364,363	399,340
Remittance of National Collections	176,604	258,883
Food Services	163,975	176,579
Investment Management Fee, Audits, and Legal Fees	96,173	126,101
Other Internally Restricted Funds	56,962	75,583
Depreciation	39,534	39,534
Remittance of Share Donations Received on behalf of Parishes	5,235	118,256

Total Operating Expenditures	5,132,067	5,834,722
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Surplus or Shortfall in Revenues over Expenditures	(140,193)	25,500
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Net Surplus or Disbursements of Funds with External Restrictions	9,786	(39,693)
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EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	(130,407)	(14,193)
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NOTES ON THE 2020-21 FINANCIAL REPORT

We are pleased to present the Financial Report of the Archdiocese of Saint Boniface; it is also available on our Website: www.archsaintboniface.ca. Please note that parishes, missions, and parochial schools each produce their own separate Annual Financial Report.

A financial report such as this can usually be better understood with the help of a few explanatory notes.

The Diocesan Centre offers several pastoral and administrative services to parishes, and maintains the building at 622 Taché Avenue, the Archbishop's Residence and the residence for retired priests. The Financial Report includes two columns of numbers: the one on the left refers to the year 2020-21, which ended on January 31, 2021, and the one on the right to the preceding fiscal year.

The year 2020 was an overwhelming one for all of us, on many different levels. Due to COVID-19, we have had to completely change our ways of working and we have had to adapt to the circumstances surrounding the pandemic and the effects it has had on our parishes. Right from the start of the pandemic, the Archdiocese has focused on four pillars: improving communication, ensuring pastoral services to the parishes, protecting the health and well-being of the faithful and employees, and managing the financial impact by providing financial relief to the parishes through the reduction of the Diocesan Tax and the contribution to the Clergy Pension Fund, and in obtaining grants from the different levels of government. Additionally, the Archdiocese has significantly reduced its expenses in order to maintain an acceptable budget balance in this time of pandemic.

REGARDING THE REVENUES SECTION:

1) Roughly 52% of operating revenues are generated by parish contributions coming from the *Diocesan Tax*, recoveries for insurance programs and contributions to the Clergy Pension Fund. The Diocesan Tax, which is usually 20% and applies to all Sunday collections and individual donations made to parishes, was reduced to 10% for the period from March through August 2020, and to 15% from September 2020 through January 2021. With this measure in mind, as well as the general reduction in donations from the faithful to the parishes, the revenue from the Diocesan Tax dropped to \$814,264. This represents a decrease of \$642,487 compared to the previous year. Further, the 4% contribution to the Clergy Pension Fund was suspended for the period from March 2020 through January 2021. This represents approximately another \$250,000 in lost revenues. These reductions were made in order to minimize the financial burden of the pandemic on the parishes and to help them navigate this difficult financial period.

2) As part of our long-term strategy to increase diocesan revenue, the Archdiocese was able to generate more income through its rental properties, such as 622 Taché. In 2020, our rental income was \$464,981, which represents an increase of \$56,506 over the previous year.

3) We are especially grateful toward the faithful for donations of \$445,795 received in 2020-21 under the item *Donations and Bequests*. This primarily includes two major gifts totalling \$147,892 and a donation of \$182,000 that was used to sponsor 87 refugees through the Blended Visa Office-Referral Program (BVOR). The BVOR seeks to welcome refugees who have been expressly recommended to one of the Canadian visa offices outside Canada by the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR). These refugees come from different parts of the world. The decrease of \$230,157 compared to the previous year is due, in large part, to a decrease in donations toward the refugee program. This program was suspended for part of the year due to the pandemic. Unrestricted donations vary from year to year and are used to fund new or ongoing initiatives, such as regional youth ministry, an increased missionary presence on First Nations reserves, evangelization, adult faith formation, and other priorities as set out in the Next Steps in the Spiritual and Pastoral Renewal.

4) The Archdiocese's low-risk investments are professionally administered with great prudence. Despite the considerable effects of the pandemic on the financial markets, 2020-21 was a good year for our investments. Compared to 2019, which was an exceptional year, 2020 yielded returns of approximately 5.5%. The total investment revenue was \$430,818, which is \$390,271 less than the previous year. A portion of our investment income serves to finance the pastoral and administrative services offered to parishes.

5) The *Good Shepherd Campaign*, provided instrumental support to the Archdiocese, collecting \$390,939, which is \$121,462 more than the previous year. The generosity of the faithful helped to compensate for the decrease in revenue from the Diocesan Tax and to support the formation of seminarians and priests.

6) The archdiocese received a sum of \$317,669 from the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS). This also helped to offset the decrease in revenue from the Diocesan Tax.

7) Every year, the national organization called Catholic Missions in Canada offers grants to the Archdiocese in support of our eight First Nations Missions (\$129,338) and for the seminarians' studies (\$84,000).

The Diocesan Council had approved a budget with an estimated total revenue of \$5.075M for the year (revenue from operations and from funds with external restrictions). We finished the year with more than \$5.23M in revenue, which is \$154,197 more than we had anticipated. This increase in revenue can be attributed to the growing generosity of our donors and the help received in the form of wage subsidies from the Canadian government. The archdiocese has experienced an overall decrease of \$868,348 in revenue in 2020-21 compared to the previous year. This decrease in archdiocesan revenue is largely attributed to the lower return on investments and the decrease in activities associated with the refugee sponsorship program.

IN THE EXPENSES SECTION, THERE ARE MANY IMPORTANT ASPECTS TO NOTE:

Looking at the overall picture, approximately \$1.48M, which represents a decrease of \$450,925 from the previous year, was used in 2020-21 to cover the expenses of the many pastoral services of the Archdiocese. This considerable reduction is attributed to the pandemic. Many programs and projects were modified or cancelled throughout the year. The Archdiocese has turned toward the use of videoconferencing in order to continue offering services to the faithful and the parishes. This form of communication is much less costly than holding events in person. Furthermore, the diocese has buckled down in order to reduce its expenses wherever possible.

a. Eight First Nations missions are served by four priests and the Sisters from the congregation of the Handmaids of the Holy Child Jesus.

b. The item *Formation for Seminarians, for Deacons and for Priests* covers the costs of the initial and ongoing formation of our seminarians, deacons, and priests in active ministry. The sum of \$322,277 was invested in the formation of priests, seminarians, and lay people to meet the needs of our parishes, now and in the future.

c. The item *Cultural Integration and Formation of Foreign Priests* refers to the costs associated with the training provided to international priests to help them adapt to their new environment (cultural awareness, speech and language training, and internship programs).

d. The costs associated with the diocesan Pastoral Services (*Pastoral Services Office, Communications, Catechetics, Youth Ministry, Marriage, Family and Life, Lay Formation, and Other Pastoral Services*) decreased by \$79,395 compared to the previous year.

e. The \$52,228 in expenses attributed to the *Chancery* decreased by \$24,952 compared to the previous year. This decrease is explained by the departure of Fr. Chris Nwosu who held this full-time position.

f. The \$45,033 in expenses attributed to the *Marriage Tribunal* decreased by \$20,172 compared to the previous year due to the departure of Fr. Jason Ortega who held this full-time position and the service agreement concluded with the Archdiocese of Winnipeg to reduce our operational costs. The Archdiocese continues to provide service in French to those requesting an annulment.

g. The *Diocesan Gala* was cancelled due to the pandemic.

h. The \$32,732 in costs attributed to *Lay Formation* include expenses related to the Nathanael Formation Program and to other diocesan lay formation programs. The Nathanael program is currently on hold due to COVID-19, which explains the significant decrease in expenses compared to previous years.

1) Administered by the Archdiocese, the item *Parish Property and Group Insurance Premiums* (employee benefits program) corresponds to the premiums paid. There is a corresponding revenue in Recoveries.

2) The expenses under *Archbishop's Office and Diocesan Administration* cover the administrative costs of many services (Human Resources, Accounting, Legal Services, Parish Auditing, Insurance, Property Management, Employee Benefits Program, Investments, etc.) provided to parishes and schools.

3) The item *Maintenance, Major Repairs and Utilities* consists of the costs of maintaining the Archbishop's Residence (where the Diocesan Centre is located), built in 1864, the residence for retired priests, and the building at 622 Taché (we are currently renting part of the building to generate income for the Archdiocese). Maintenance costs have decreased by \$34,977 compared to the previous year.

4) In 2020-21, the parishes collected \$134,422 in support of national special collections, including: Development and Peace - Caritas Canada, the Good Friday Collection, the Pope's Pastoral Works, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB), and Catholic Missions in Canada. Donations decreased by \$84,540 compared to the previous year. It should be noted that the total donations remitted were more than the donations received by a sum of over \$42,000 due to the annual dues paid to the CCCC; the amount collected was \$16,089 while our annual dues represent a sum of over \$60,000.

5) We only received \$5,235 in donations attributed to the budget item *Remittance of Share Donations Received on Behalf of Parishes* for donations of publicly listed securities made to parishes through the Archdiocese. The corresponding revenue for these donations is found in Donations and Bequests. This budget line saw a significant decrease compared to the previous year which is likely due to the effects of the pandemic because these transactions generally take place in person in financial institutions.

6) We note that a surplus of \$9,786 is posted for *Externally Restricted Funds*. This line represents the revenues less the expenses for those funds which the Archdiocese holds in trust and which must be spent according to the different funds' purposes.

The Archdiocese had approved a budget with an operational deficit of \$579,000 at the beginning of the fiscal year in order to honour its ongoing commitments. Despite having approved such a budget, and the negative effects of the pandemic, the Archdiocese succeeded in significantly reducing its operational expenses over the course of the year and maintained a sufficient level of revenue thanks to the generosity of its donors and the CEWS. The Archdiocese finished the year with an overall deficit of \$130,407 which will be financed by a permanent reduction of the diocesan financial reserves.

Finally, we thank you for your donations to the Archdiocese and are also grateful for the bequests received, which are crucial in the ongoing struggle to fund our pastoral services.

RICHARD FRÉCHETTE, CPA, CMA

Financial Administrator during the 2020-21 fiscal year

Diocesan Finance Council

Archbishop Albert LeGatt
Marc Marion, LL.B., Chairman
Fr. Kevin Bettens, priest
Fr. Charles Fillion, priest
Fr. Brian Trueman, priest

Raymond Clément
Paul Prenovault, CPA, CA
Janet Morrill, CPA, CGA
Antoine Hacault, LL.B.

