



# ARCHDIOCESE OF SAINT BONIFACE 2019-20 REPORT

September 2020

December 9, 2020: The Archdiocese of Saint Boniface celebrated the foundation of the Trappist Monastery, Notre-Dame-des-Prairies, in Manitoba, and Dom Marcel Carbotte's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as abbot of this monastery during the diocesan Mass of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary held at the Saint Boniface Cathedral.



Archidiocèse de  
Saint-Boniface  
Archdiocese

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

"The meadows of the wilderness will overflow" was the motto of Bishop Norbert Provencher, the first bishop of Saint Boniface. This prophecy remains true to this day, as our fertile soil continues to produce an abundant harvest. In November 2019, the Archdiocese of Saint Boniface published a report on the fruits of its initiatives, as outlined in the 2013-18 action plan. This booklet entitled *Next Steps in the Spiritual and Pastoral Renewal* also presents the objectives that the diocesan services have established to guide them in their work. (See <https://www.archsaintboniface.ca/main.php?p=908>)

Mireille Grenier, Director of Pastoral Services, and Richard Fréchette, Diocesan Financial Administrator, highlight a few key elements of our 2019-20 efforts in this report, as shown by the investment of human and financial resources allocated to them. I dare hope and pray that this report for the year 2019-20 demonstrates that the diocesan team has been especially attentive to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

During the months of December and January, the last months of our fiscal year, the Diocesan Centre personnel was already anticipating the potential needs resulting from a looming COVID-19 pandemic, should it strike here. It is thanks to this foresight that the diocese and its parishes have remained strong in the face of this great challenge and have continued to focus on our priority of evangelization. In next year's report, we will review this experience that has incited us to rethink some of our ways of doing things.

*May God bless you and your loved ones, keep you safe from all danger, and strong in love and peace among you. With the assurance of my prayers.*



*+ Albert L. Gatt*  
+ARCHBISHOP ALBERT LEGATT

## Explanatory Notes Regarding the Pastoral Services

The Pastoral Services regularly share information concerning their ongoing priorities in the *Weekly News Bulletin* published by the Communications Service. The following is an overview of key pastoral initiatives of the 2019-20 year.

### 1) **Our welcome of refugees has really taken off—a total of 120 arrived in 2019-20!**

Through a sponsorship agreement with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, families and parishes can choose to sponsor refugees on behalf of the Archdiocese of Saint Boniface. We work closely with families who wish to bring their loved ones to Canada. Upon their

arrival, the families or parishes welcome them and help them to resettle. In 2019, 16 sponsorship applications were received, and 33 individuals arrived in Canada.

Thanks to a major private donation and to a contribution from the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto, the Archdiocese's Sponsorship Coordinator, Mary Hailu, was able to submit 35 applications to the Blended Visa Office-Referred (BVOR) Program, which led to the arrival of 87 people in Manitoba. 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). With the help of a team of volunteers, Mary ensured that the newcomers settled in well and that they began their new lives in Canada on the right foot. Further, the funds donated for this humanitarian project allowed the Archdiocese to offer them English courses.

### 2) **Diocesan Study Days—November 5 & 6, 2019**

The objective for these two study days was to allow participants to deepen their understanding of Church teachings on the sanctity of life, particularly on matters pertaining to the beginning and end of life. Among others, Michel MacDonald, Executive Director of the Catholic Organization for Life and Family, and Katarina Lee, Clinical Ethicist at St. Boniface Hospital, discussed the topics of palliative care and faith-based health care directives. Further, one of the workshops was on the topic of Natural Family Planning. Reflection on the theme for these days was enriched through prayer, panel discussions and a Eucharistic celebration.

I share with you a comment received from one of the 115 people who participated in the Study Days: "I am moved by it. I am pleased with the role of the Church. Yes, I was aware of what they do and what they teach, but I also learned that they care, and they want to show us they care."

### 3) **Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)**

Those who are 14 years of age or older become members of the Catholic Church community through the RCIA process, which culminates in the celebration of the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and the Eucharist, usually at the Easter Vigil.

A diocesan committee was formed to support parishes in their implementation of RCIA. The committee guides them through the process, offers resources and counsel, and organizes the Rite of Election. This committee works more closely with the English parishes of the Archdiocese, but it is also in contact with the French parishes. The French Catechetics Coordinator, Diane Bélanger, researched the established best practices and the programs being offered elsewhere in French Canada ahead of preparing a guide to help the French parishes accompany people through the RCIA process.

I wish to conclude by expressing my profound gratitude toward the staff and volunteers at the diocesan and parish levels who continue to support our collective efforts of spiritual and pastoral renewal, and to God who endlessly guides us on our journey.

**MIREILLE GRENIER**  
Director of Pastoral Services

# STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

For the Period from February 1, 2019, to January 31, 2020

We are pleased to present the Financial Report of the Archdiocese of Saint Boniface; it is also available on our Website: [www.archsaintboniface.ca](http://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 2019-20, which ended on January 31, 2020, and the one on the right to the preceding fiscal year.

<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
Diocesan Tax (20%)	1,456,751	1,474,911
Recoveries - Property and Group Insurance, and others	1,251,904	1,270,161
Priests' Pension Plan	521,240	542,942
Apartment and office rentals for 622 Taché and other buildings	408,475	324,068
Donations and Bequests	675,952	708,508
National Collections	218,962	234,455
Good Shepherd Campaign	269,474	256,734
Grants from Catholic Missions in Canada	236,375	211,296
Return on Investments	821,089	83,319
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>5,860,222</b>	<b>5,106,395</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>		
<b>Pastoral Services Expenses:</b>		
First Nations Missions	501,297	458,597
Formation for Seminarians, for Deacons and for Priests	433,169	368,132
Lay Formation	56,342	140,135
Cultural Integration and Formation of Foreign Priests	101,700	130,744
Diocesan Gala and Donation to the St. Boniface Cathedral for the Renovation Project	111,605	102,475
Catechetics	86,755	86,507
Chancery Office	77,180	141,580
Marriage Tribunal	65,205	93,120
St. Boniface Hospital Ministry	23,661	33,885
Financial Aid to Parishes in Need	78,179	100,519
Youth Ministry	60,380	43,239
Marriage, Family and Respect for Life	74,571	66,244
Communications	76,401	68,037
Pastoral Services Office	106,450	50,622
Catholic Schools Services	24,410	22,914
Diocesan Charities	24,938	19,138
Other Pastoral Services	28,228	63,744
<b>Sub-Total of Expenses: Pastoral Services</b>	<b>1,930,471</b>	<b>1,989,632</b>
<b>Other Expenses</b>		
Parish Property and Group Insurance Premiums	1,008,997	989,668
Archbishop's Office and Diocesan Administration	897,563	936,344
Maintenance, Major Repairs and Utilities	399,340	522,445
Priests Pensions and Rent Paid to Villa Aulneau for Priest's Residences	803,414	728,561
Remittance of National Collections	258,883	277,776
Other Internally Restricted Funds	75,583	202,049
Food Services	176,579	171,512
Investment Management Fee, Audits, and Legal Fees	126,101	130,479
Remittance of Share Donations Received on behalf of Parishes	118,256	4,421
Depreciation	39,534	43,411
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>5,834,722</b>	<b>5,996,298</b>
<b>Surplus or Shortfall in Revenues over Expenditures</b>	<b>25,500</b>	<b>(889,903)</b>
<b>Net Surplus or Disbursements on Funds with External Restrictions</b>	<b>(39,693)</b>	<b>(44,351)</b>
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>(14,193)</b>	<b>(934,254)</b>

# NOTES ON THE 2019-20 FINANCIAL REPORT

## REGARDING THE REVENUES SECTION :

1. Roughly 55% of operating revenues are generated by parish contributions coming from the *Diocesan Tax* (20%), recoveries for insurance programs and contributions to the priest's pension fund. The Diocesan Tax of 20% applies to all Sunday Collections and individual donations made to parishes.
2. We are especially grateful toward the faithful for donations of \$675,952 received in 2019-20 under the item *Donations and Bequests*. This includes three major gifts totalling \$360,439 that were used to sponsor 120 refugees from different parts of the world and a major donation of \$20,000 in support of our ministry in First Nations missions. Unrestricted donations vary from year to year and are used to fund new or ongoing initiatives, such as 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*.
3. As part of our long-term strategy to increase diocesan revenue, the Archdiocese generated more income than the previous year through our rental properties, such as 622 Taché. In 2020, our rental income increased by \$84,408 over the previous year.
4. Having raised \$264,474 over this past year, the Good Shepherd Campaign provided instrumental support to the formation of seminarians and priests, the enculturation and preparation for ministry of priests who have newly arrived in our Archdiocese, and to marriage and family programs. The amount collected represents an increase of \$12,740 over the previous year. The average annual cost per seminarian is \$25,000.
5. Every year, the national organization called Catholic Missions in Canada offers grants to the Archdiocese in support of our First Nations Missions (\$152,375) and for the seminarians' studies (\$84,000). The support received has increased considerably as more resources have been devoted to ministry in First Nations communities. It should be noted that the amount received in support of First Nations includes a total of \$30,000 which served to add a meeting room and a washroom to the church in Poplar River.
6. The Archdiocese's low-risk investments are professionally administered with great prudence. Contrary to the considerable losses we incurred in 2018-19, we had an excellent investment year in 2019-20. Our total investment gains increased from \$83,319 to \$821,089, an incredible gain of \$737,769 from one year to the next, which largely contributed to the slight surplus of \$25,500. A portion of our investment income serves to finance the pastoral and administrative services offered to parishes.

## IN THE EXPENSES SECTION, SEVEN IMPORTANT ASPECTS ARE TO BE NOTED:

1. Looking at the overall picture, almost \$1.93M, which represents a decrease of approximately \$60,000 from the previous year, was used in 2019-20 to cover the expenses of the many pastoral services of the Archdiocese. Of the total amount, more than \$591,000 was invested in the formation of priests, seminarians, and lay people to meet the needs of parishes, now and in the future.
  - 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 initial and ongoing formation of our seminarians, deacons, and priests in active ministry.
  - c. The costs of \$56,342 attributed to *Lay Formation* include expenses related to the Nathanael Formation Program and to other diocesan lay formation programs. Nathanael was undergoing a period of restructuring and promotion in 2019-20, which explains the significant decrease of \$83,794 compared to the previous year.
  - d. 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).
  - e. The \$77,180 in expenses attributed to the *Chancery* decreased by \$64,600 compared to the previous year. This decrease is explained by the departure of Fr. Chris Nwosu who held the full-time position of Chancellor. Fr. Carl Tarnopolski has taken on the responsibilities of Chancellor within his position as Vicar General.
  - f. The costs of \$65,202 attributed to the *Marriage Tribunal* decreased by \$27,915 compared to the previous year. This is in part due to the departure of Fr. Jason Ortega, who was the full-time Director, as well as the decision to coordinate the administration of the tribunal with the Archdiocese of Winnipeg in order to reduce the operating costs for both dioceses. The Archdiocese continues to provide services in French to those requesting an annulment.
  - g. The costs of \$106,450 attributed to the *Pastoral Services Office* increased by \$55,828 compared to the previous year due to the hiring of a full-time Director of Pastoral Services. This position had been vacant for the last three years.
2. 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*.
3. The expenses under *Archbishop's Office and Diocesan Administration* cover the administrative costs of various services (Human Resources, Accounting, Legal Services, Insurance, Property Management, Employee Benefits Programs, Investments, etc.) offered to parishes and schools.
4. 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 and expanded in 1899, the residence for retired priests, and the building at 622 Taché. The maintenance costs decreased by \$123,105 compared to the previous year. The costs were higher in 2018-19 due to the major repairs of the foundations of the Archbishop's Residence and the costs of renovating 622 Taché in preparation to rent it to the public, namely to l'Accueil francophone, an organization that welcomes refugees.
5. In 2019-20, the parishes collected \$258,883 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, and Catholic Missions in Canada.
6. A deficit of \$39,693 is posted for *Externally Restricted Funds*. This line represents the revenues less the expenses for those funds which the Archdiocese keeps in trust and that must be spent according to the different funds' purposes.
7. The budget item *Remittance of Share Donations Received on Behalf of Parishes* was added to be more transparent about donations of publicly listed securities made to parishes through the Archdiocese. In 2018-19, five parishes collectively received more than \$118,000 from a total of seven donors. The corresponding revenue for these donations is found in *Donations and Bequests*.

The Archdiocese had approved a budget with an operational deficit of \$873,000 at the beginning of the fiscal year in order to honour its ongoing commitments. Despite approving a deficit budget, the Archdiocese worked to decrease its operational expenses throughout the year and to increase its revenue. This financial report demonstrates that expenses decreased considerably, and our investments produced substantial gains, which resulted in a balanced budget for the fiscal year.

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

### Diocesan Finance Committee

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

Raymond Clément  
Paul Prenovault, CPA, CA  
Janet Morrill, CPA, CGA

