



NEXT STEPS IN THE SPIRITUAL AND PASTORAL RENEWAL

ARCHDIOCESE
OF SAINT
BONIFACE

November 2019



Archidiocèse de
Saint-Boniface
Archdiocese

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THE MEADOWS OF THE WILDERNESS OVERFLOW

was the motto of Bishop Norbert Provencher, the first bishop of our beloved archdiocese; it remains true and continues to resonate with us. The soil in St. Boniface is very fertile, as are our hearts which continue to produce beautiful fruits.

A little over five years ago, we embarked together on a strategic planning process. Following many discussions with the laity and priests, the Action Plan for the spiritual and pastoral renewal of our diocese was developed. This ambitious plan was founded on our mission and vision, our values, as well as five overarching guiding principles. Today, the diocese wishes to share with you the fruits of each service during these last few years.

Though the harvest has been plentiful, we must continue to set and to update our goals. It is for this reason that each service has also prepared a list of goals to strive for in the years to come.

We invite you to take the time to read this review of the action plan and to ask the Lord to continue to guide us in our common efforts.

MISSION

We are the people of God, the Body of Christ, and the Temple of the Holy Spirit of the Archdiocese of Saint Boniface. We live and share the threefold mission of Christ, the Priest, the Prophet, and the Shepherd-King. This is our commitment to live and celebrate our call to holiness, to evangelize, and to build a community in God's image, grounded in love, justice, peace and reconciliation.

VISION

The gifts and charisms of the baptized, that is the lay and religious people, deacons, priests, and the Archbishop, are recognized and valued. As Christ's disciples, the baptized acknowledge their personal vocation and respond affirmatively to invitations to share their gifts and charisms, and are committed to a personal relationship with Christ.

VALUES

The baptized share the following three values:

- 1 God is revealed in all **welcoming communities** committed to evangelization, prayer, charitable works, social justice, and education;
- 2 The Church is a **communion** of the baptized united in faith and charity;
- 3 The Church is **in dialogue with the world**; it is close to people, inclusive, and responsive to the needs of the wider community.

DIOCESAN GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Here are five broad guiding principles put forth to help identify projects and areas of focus, to realize our Mission and Vision.

Call upon the gifts and charisms of all the baptized

Rethink and adapt to the changing circumstances in our communities, the vocations and the roles, the calls and the responses to the ministries and services of the Church. The spiritual and pastoral renewal depends upon the willingness of the baptized to share their gifts and charisms.

Broaden the outreach of the Gospel and the faith of the Church

Strive for a greater life-giving presence of the Church.

Assert Catholic identity

Express our Catholic Identity.

Give visibility to the Church

Increase the visibility of the Church in the public forum.

Develop the spirituality of stewardship

Integrate the spirituality of Christian stewardship into parish and diocesan activities.



EVANGELIZATION
AND LIFELONG
LEARNING
IN THE FAITH



MISSIONARY PROCLAMATION

REVIEW

Missionary proclamation is an invitation to persons who have not heard Christ's call to become his disciples.

- Included the idea of missionary proclamation in catechetical activities for parents' formation.
- Raised awareness of the faithful's baptismal call to evangelize through workshops and gatherings.
- Included new evangelization and parish growth within the renewed Nathanael program.

LOOKING FORWARD

Missionary Proclamation must be an integral part of all diocesan initiatives.

The evangelization office is currently being restructured and other avenues to promote evangelization are currently being analyzed and established, for example, the creation of a new diocesan committee.



CATECHETICS

REVIEW

The Catechetical Service assists parishes in the Six Tasks of Catechesis through a variety of models and methods. Support is given by providing training for catechists and people sharing the faith in parish communities, schools, and home environments. Here are some completed initiatives from the recent 5-year Action Plan:

- Evaluated catechetical materials according to the CCCB's National Criteria for Catechesis.
- Implemented the new diocesan catechetical policy.
- Offered training sessions and regular gatherings for catechists, parish coordinators and catechetical leaders.
- Offered ongoing parent sessions to empower parents and help them to foster faith in their homes in today's challenging world.
- The preparation of English catechetical resource packages on stewardship to be used in parishes, homes or schools.

LOOKING FORWARD

Here are some new and continued initiatives.

- Introduce all new priests, catechists, parish coordinators and catechetical leaders to the diocesan catechetical policy.
- Offer ongoing training and resources for all catechists.
- Support family catechesis as an essential element of ongoing catechetical activity at the parish level and in relationship with the diocesan service.
- Gather best practices and share experiences with parishes in an accessible format.
- Explore a model for integrating parent catechesis into parish adult formation for a stronger lifelong formation experience.
- Create a pilot group of online formation with coordinators and catechists to assess the formation experience.





MARRIAGE, FAMILY & LIFE

REVIEW

The main goal of the Marriage, Family, and Life Service is to support and strengthen couples and families through programs and services that foster an authentically Catholic vision of marriage, family, and the dignity of life. Some activities to date include:

- The implementation of a marriage preparation program called “For Better and Forever” through ongoing training sessions with sponsor couples.
- The creation of parish Marriage, Family and Life Teams.
- The “Created for Connection” retreat is a Christian-based program in “Emotionally Focused Therapy,” which is a leading, research-based method with a high rate of effectiveness that helps couples thrive.

LOOKING FORWARD

Here are some of the current and new projects that will be the focus for the next three years:

- Continue to create and support parish Marriage, Family and Life Teams.
- Offer a Fertility Health Awareness Seminar for engaged couples to discover methods of Natural Family Planning.
- Share healing resources for those affected by abortion.
- Share possible drives in support of marginalized families with a new baby.
- Offer resources for end-of-life issues.
- Plan a memorial mass for miscarried and aborted babies for healing and reconciliation.
- Create a guide of “Catholic-friendly” resources for families looking for assistance in the areas of counselling, finances, legal aid, specific health care concerns and crisis situations.



INTERCHURCH AND INTERFAITH LEARNING

REVIEW

This volunteer-led service promotes honest, respectful and effective relationships with people of all faith communities. It provides counsel, support and assistance to the parishes that wish to offer interfaith programs on the local level. Some initiatives to date include:

- Continued support of the activities of Bat Kol, in the spirit of Nostra Aetate, that Christianity is rooted in Judaism.
- Organized ecumenical dialogues, events and prayer services, archdiocesan-wide and at the parish level.
- Created a partnership between Catholics and Lutherans for the Compassionate Caregivers Program.
- Participated in interfaith gathering for meditation for peace.

LOOKING FORWARD

The service will continue to collaborate in the planning of the Week for Christian Unity and will establish a partnership with the Archdiocese of Winnipeg for continued representation in different faith organizations in Manitoba. The service will also host the 2019 Western Diocesan and Eparchial Coordinators of Ecumenism in a tri-diocesan partnership.



PROMOTION OF VOCATIONS

REVIEW

This committee celebrates, highlights, and oversees the activities within the archdiocese that support vocational discernment in its traditional formats, and acknowledges those faithfully living out their current stage of life. Some initiatives to date include:

- Hosting the World Day of Consecrated Life on February 2, honouring religious women and men.
- Coordinating a Mass with a blessing for widows and widowers, honouring their current stage in life, and affirming their important contributions to the life and vitality of our Church.
- Supporting vocations to the priesthood through the Vocations Director, who accompanies men discerning diocesan priesthood and seminarians in formation.

LOOKING FORWARD

Many of the current activities will continue, adding new initiatives as the needs arise:

- Organize “The Door is Always Open: Chat with our Archbishop,” an afternoon for separated and divorced people to share their stories and needs, and find out what guidance, supports and services the Archdiocese offers.
- Support the Association of Religious of Manitoba, which has started to host gatherings and offer spiritual accompaniment to young adults.



YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

REVIEW

Youth and Young Adult Ministry exists to offer guidance, support, as well as spiritual and professional training to those who serve youth and young adults across the archdiocese. Here are some initiatives that built the foundation to the strong ministry it is today:

- Hosted annual diocesan youth gatherings such as Youth Rallies.
- Created and distributed Resource Kits to all youth ministry coordinators in the diocese.
- Hosted the National Youth Ministry Conference in 2016.

LOOKING FORWARD

Over the next few years, the goals for Youth and Young Adult Ministry are to:

- Bring more awareness and promote comprehensive youth ministry in parishes, especially in the rural areas.
- Develop a local Youth and Young Adult Ministry Certificate to equip leaders in their ministry.
- Establish and rekindle connections to build relationships with local organizations, associations, or groups that serve youth and young adults.



ADULT FAITH FORMATION

REVIEW

Adult education plays an important role in the pastoral and spiritual renewal of our Church. Here are some initiatives that took place over these last few years:

- Completed the ARISE Together in Christ program. Over 1,600 individuals across the diocese participated in these faith sharing groups.
- Modified the format of the Diocesan Study Days to offer all faithful and priests the opportunity to gather as one and deepen the faith.
- Ensured availability of the New Evangelization Summit.
- From 2013 to 2014, the Objectives of the Nathanael program were redefined. Twenty-four candidates graduated from Nathanael in 2018.

LOOKING FORWARD

The Office of Adult Faith Formation is currently being restructured but here are some initiatives that will be the primary focus:

- Forming a Diocesan Committee to support parishes with RCIA. This committee will offer guiding practises and suggestions as to which resources to use.
- Forming a Diocesan Committee to offer support in evangelization and Adult Faith Formation.
- Encouraging parishes to collaborate in hosting the New Evangelization Summit or similar initiatives to gather the faithful and deepen their faith.
- Creating a list of possible workshops that different Pastoral Services could offer.
- The hope is to offer the redefined Nathanael program once again and that group would graduate in 2023.





FORMATION
FOR MINISTRY
OF THE CHURCH



RENEWAL AND GROWTH OF PARISH PASTORAL COUNCILS

REVIEW

The Diocesan Committee for the Renewal and Growth of Parish Pastoral Councils (PPC) was officially introduced in April 2018. Its responsibility is to actively assist parishes in the development and implementation of PPCs, so that parishes will have an active PPC focused on the parish's needs, as well as its mission and vision. Strategies to date include:

- Being the point of contact for parishes in need of support.
- Revising the document: *From the "Upper Room" to "the Ends of the Earth," Guidelines for PPCs and promoting its implementation.*

LOOKING FORWARD

The focus for the next three years will be to:

- Continue to support individual parishes.
- Continue to promote the implementation of the revised Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) Guidelines.
- Develop and offer workshops to parishes according to their needs.
- Finalize the development of a 4-step process to assist in the formation of PPCs.



PRISON MINISTRY

REVIEW

The Prison Ministry was established in 2013 with representatives from the St. Boniface and Winnipeg Archdioceses, as well as the Ukrainian Archeparchy. Activities to date include:

- Regular meetings of Catholic prison chaplains with the Archbishops.
- Special gatherings with all those involved in prison ministry.
- Presentations offered to parishes and other groups to educate about the realities of prison ministry.
- Promotion of restorative justice.

LOOKING FORWARD

The mandate of the committee going forward is to accompany and assist prisoners, as they end their time of incarceration with their phase of reintegration with their family and within society.

A Community Chaplaincy program is being established. Two sites, St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish and Holy Eucharist Ukrainian Catholic Parish, will host weekly gatherings for former prisoners and their families. A coordinator aided by a task force and volunteers will provide welcome, accompaniment, support and resources to help find accommodation, employment and the necessities of life.



MINISTRY OF CARE

REVIEW

Ministry of Care offers formation and resources to parishes to support clergy, eucharistic ministers and all individuals reaching out and offering a presence to those in need. This volunteer committee works in the following areas:

- Education on Ministry of Care within a parish,
- Grief and Bereavement,
- Mental Health Support.

LOOKING FORWARD

The renewed committee will focus on the following initiatives:

- Developing a volunteer training toolkit for the Ministry of Care.
- Developing a curriculum for mental health support groups and offering recommendations for the parishes on how to offer support.
- Developing a formation for Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministry, which will be offered annually.



SOCIAL JUSTICE

REVIEW

The Diocesan Social Justice Committee strives to enhance awareness of our brothers and sisters who are waiting for a helping hand. Activities to date include:

- Informing parishes and laity of social justice initiatives,
- Organizing the Annual Diocesan Social Justice Conference.

LOOKING FORWARD

The committee plans to continue:

- Being a resource and offering assistance to pastoral regions.
- Planning the Annual Diocesan Social Justice Conference.



REVIEW

The Archdiocese continues to be recognized as a Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH) by Immigration, Refugee, Citizenship Canada (IRCC). This allows the Archdiocese to sponsor refugee families on behalf of parishes and families. Responsibilities include:

- The management of ongoing applications/cases with IRCC.
- Thirty individuals are sponsored annually.
- Since 2015, ten parishes have sponsored eight families.

LOOKING FORWARD

Much of the work continues regarding the management of applications and cases with IRCC. Regarding parish refugee sponsorship, guidance and support is offered on an individual basis, as needed.

The Archdiocese is currently involved in sponsoring an additional 100 people who are expected to arrive in 2019.



MISSIONS COMMITTEE

REVIEW

The goal of the Missions Committee is to work with the national office of the Pontifical Mission Society in order to raise awareness of the pope's missionary initiatives within the parishes. Here is what has been accomplished in these last few years:

- The organization of the diocesan celebration for the Holy Childhood Association in 2016.
- The promotion of the worldwide collection for World Mission Sunday.
- Since 2015, the organization of the annual diocesan celebration, on July 1, highlighting our multiculturalism.

LOOKING FORWARD

During the next three years, the committee plans to:

- Awaken within our diocese a missionary spirit and a spirit of universality by offering missionary content in our different parishes.
- Raise awareness in the parishes about the Extraordinary Missionary Month by organizing a Diocesan Mass and by providing information and resources.
- Continue to organize the annual Diocesan Multicultural Celebration.



REVIEW

The mandate of the English Liturgy Formation Committee is to work with parishes to enrich liturgical life, to respond to parish requests, as needs for training and catechesis are identified. Projects that have taken place:

- Created a section within the Resource Centre for liturgical material available in English.
- Offered sessions on the mass and the importance of the liturgical environment in connection with the Cathedral Renewal Project.
- Offered support for the preparation of diocesan liturgical celebrations.
- Planned the Western Conference for Liturgy that took place in the diocese in the fall of 2018

LOOKING FORWARD

The main focus for the next three years is to:

- Find new members for the English Liturgy Committee.
- Offer support for diocesan liturgical celebrations.
- Collaborate with the French Liturgy Committee to better serve bilingual parishes.

LITURGY AND CELEBRATIONS



TRAINING AND SUPPORT FOR PRIESTS AND PERMANENT DEACONS

REVIEW

Priests (early formation and ongoing training)

Two ordinations in 2017 and the promise of an ordination or two most years for the foreseeable future. There have also been opportunities for ongoing professional development of clergy through the annual Priests' Retreat and the General Assembly of Priests.

Newly ordained priests also attend a priests' retreat with other newly ordained priests to build community and support for each other across the Church in Western Canada.

Welcome, support and integration of priests from abroad

A comprehensive and standard process of enculturation for new international priests was created. The goal is to have these priests become as fully acclimated to our culture and style of Church before their insertion into the parish, and to better prepare the parish community to receive their new priest.

Permanent Diaconate

The Interdiocesan Permanent Diaconate Formation Program serves the three Archdioceses of St. Boniface, Winnipeg and Keewatin-Le Pas.

A total of ten men were ordained in 2018, three of them were from the Archdiocese of St. Boniface. There are currently six men participating in the second cohort of formation.

LOOKING FORWARD

Priests (early formation and ongoing training)

The desire is to continue to support the discernment of men to the vocation of priesthood, with hopes that ordinations will take place annually.

The Annual Priests Retreat and General Assembly of Priests will continue to be occasions to gather our priests, for them to grow in communion, and to share in knowledge.

Welcome, support and integration of priests from abroad

Over the next three years, we will continue working on refining the process of enculturation. We will also start to focus a little more on the preparation of the parish communities, helping them to best welcome a new international priest by creating a similarly structured program with feedback from those communities.

Permanent Diaconate

Planning is in progress for the third cohort to begin their formation in the fall of 2020, with program completion in 2025.



COMMUNICATIONS

REVIEW

The Communications Office seeks to efficiently share about diocesan activities through various media. This service has a mission to evangelize and build community in the image of Christ

- The diocesan website was updated to better reflect the Archdiocese's vision.
- The parishes were surveyed regarding their communications needs, with a particular emphasis on the website and social media.

LOOKING FORWARD

Over the next three years, the Communications Office plans to:

- Improve collaboration with the media to increase coverage of diocesan and parish events, as well as articles about individuals' faith lives.
- Produce and develop more inspiring and educational content that will contribute to evangelization.
- Follow up with parishes so as to allow parishes to receive support from this service and to empower them to help each other out.





CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

REVIEW

The Stewardship Office was not established; however, some stewardship initiatives were still undertaken:

- The creation of a French resource by the Catechetical Service explaining stewardship to children in grades 1, 2 and 3.
- The preparation of English catechetical resource packages on stewardship to be used in parishes, homes or schools.
- A diocesan fundraising initiative was started: The Good Shepard Campaign.

LOOKING FORWARD

Stewardship initiatives will still take place as the needs and the resources arise.

- The preparation of bilingual resources on planned giving.

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