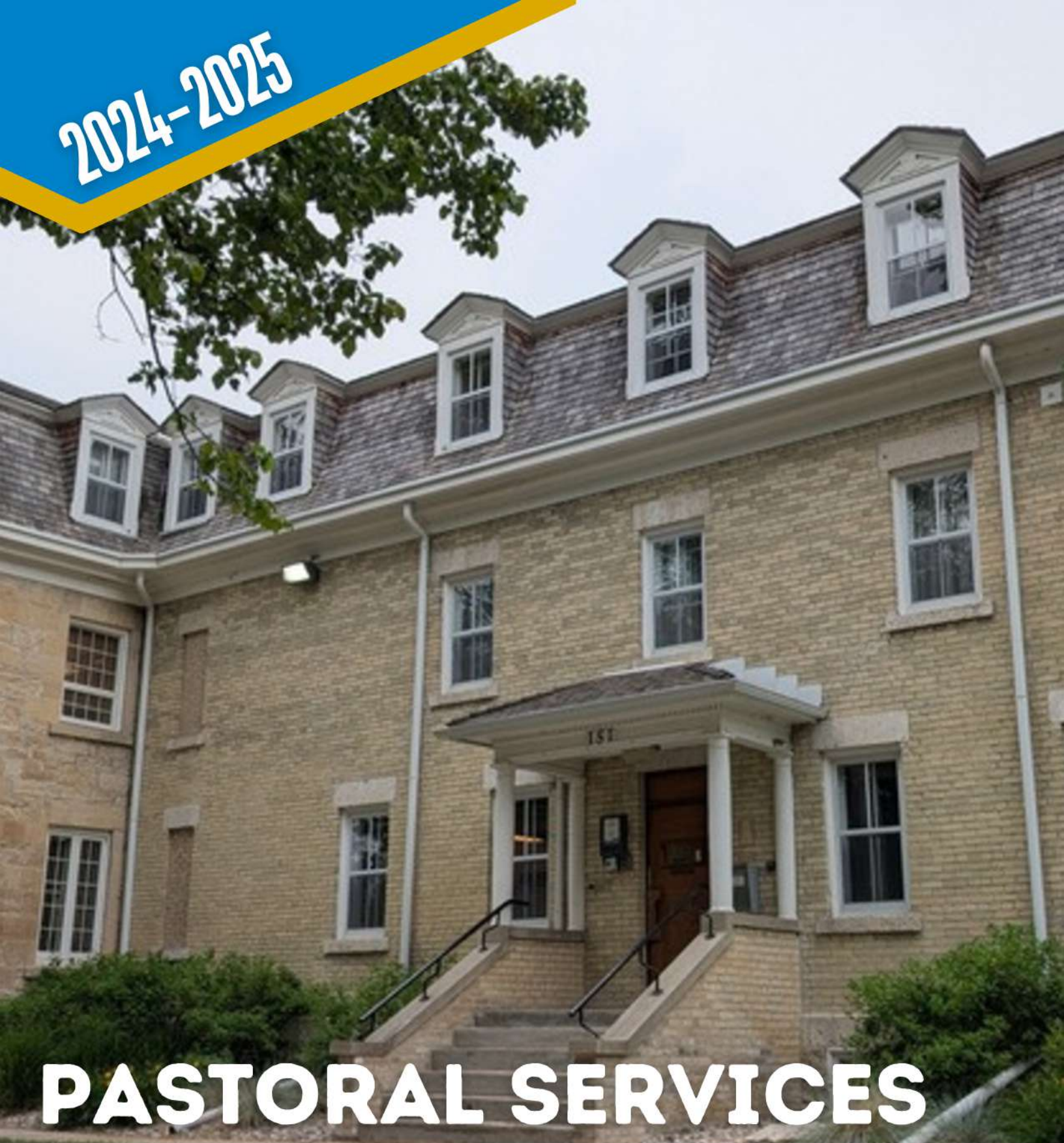


2024-2025



PASTORAL SERVICES

ANNUAL REPORT



Archidiocèse de
Saint-Boniface
Archdiocese

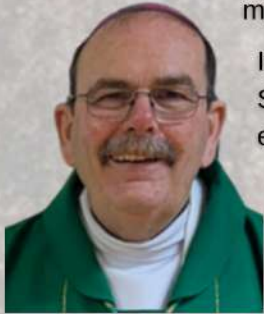
Archbishop Albert LeGatt

Dear brothers and sisters of the Archdiocese of Saint-Boniface,

I am pleased to share with you this report from our Pastoral Services Team covering their activities over the 2024-2025 pastoral year (September 1 – June 30).

As an archbishop, my responsibilities are many: to teach, to sanctify and to govern; to share the Good News of Jesus' saving death and resurrection; to assure the spiritual and sacramental nourishment necessary to grow in holiness; and to shepherd all toward a common vision and a communion of faith, hope and love, lived out in fraternity, solidarity and justice.

This ministry of service towards Jesus and his Body, the Church, can be powerfully carried out – but never by myself alone. All the baptized must participate, across our complex archdiocese and its several intersections of diverse histories, languages, and cultures. And this is where our Pastoral Services Team comes in. Their ministry is manifested in day-to-day life as they reach out, especially to your parishes, to help you live out your ministry to the Church and the world.



It is a tremendous blessing to me to have this team of collaborators within our Pastoral Services Team, each of whom I trust completely. And we have fun together! I strongly encourage any of you exercising ministry or leadership in your parish to reach out to them.

They are here for you, and they await your call or email.

The Church is learning through the Synod on Synodality that we will hear the Holy Spirit when we pray together, listen to each other, and act as one. It is my prayer that all in their personal relationship with Jesus Christ will respond to this affirmatively and wholeheartedly.

+ Albert LeGatt

Introduction

Right across from the Cathedral Basilica of Saint-Boniface with its iconic old façade and the historic cemetery, one finds, behind a row of hedges and nestled amidst century-old elm trees, an unassuming building originally referred to as the Archbishop's Residence, but now known as the Archdiocesan Centre. This building's oldest portion dates back to 1864: older than Canada. Over the years, it has been expanded, updated, and renovated many times, but it has always been the home of the Archbishop of Saint-Boniface.

This building also houses, among other archdiocesan departments, the offices of the Pastoral Services staff. This team is here to serve the parishes of the Archdiocese by offering formation and resources for parish pastoral staff and volunteers. While all of us are also actively in our own parishes and other apostolates, in our roles at the Archdiocese we are primarily engaged with supporting those who work for the church.

We are all laypeople, actively living out *Lumen Gentium's* acknowledgement that "the laity can also be called in various ways to a more direct form of cooperation in the apostolate of the Hierarchy." (33)

Putting this report forward is not intended to highlight our own importance. As a team we have listened closely to the French priest Jean-Baptiste Chautard in *The Soul of the Apostolate*, in which he challenges pastoral workers to prioritize the formation of our interior life and our relationship with Jesus, for, as our Lord says in John 15:5, "Apart from me, you can do nothing."

It is our fervent prayer that our personal faith will be constantly renewed, so that the work we do is done in the name and power of the Lord Jesus. In that spirit, we humbly submit this report to the people of the Archdiocese of Saint-Boniface, that you may see not just what we are doing for you, but why we're doing it: for the glory of God and the building of his kingdom on earth.

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Various photographs from events throughout the year

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Photo above: a deer resting in the shade behind the Archdiocesan Centre. They are a common sight on the grounds here.



Daniel Bahuaud

Communications Coordinator

A significant highlight of my pastoral year occurred on March 14 at Christ the King Parish, when as members of the Safe Church Environment Committee, Amber Wsiaki and I led those in attendance in a Way of the Cross for the survivors of clergy sexual abuse.

This was a first for our Archdiocese, and we were happy to see that those in attendance filled the church. For us, this was a sign that Catholics felt a real need to pray for survivors, and acknowledge in prayer the harm that has been done at the hands of several priests in our particular Church. Difficult though the subject was to broach, and contemplate, people were moved as we progressed through the Stations, accompanied by Sr. Norma McDonald's singing and guitar playing.

Everyone in attendance was asked to write down a prayer intention, and place it in one of several urns that were taken back to the communities of the Grey Nuns, the Sister Servants of Mary Immaculate, the Oblate Fathers of Mary Immaculate, the Society of Jesus, the Missionary Oblate Sisters, the Sisters of the Holy Cross and the Handmaids of the Holy Child Jesus. The intentions weren't read, but were brought to the altar during Mass in each of these communities.

For me, the preparation of the event proved to be a great joy. This was the first time I had collaborated with Amber on a specific project, one which was dear to both our hearts. Sister Norma's assistance was also greatly appreciated. This was as much of a healing journey for us as for those who participated on March 14. God is good.



Yssa Arlegue

Youth and Young Adult Ministry Coordinator

This past year was a great blessing for the office of Youth and Young Adult in the Archdiocese of Saint Boniface. I was on parental leave and Amber Wsiaki was hired to cover the position for a year. With a grateful heart, I appreciate Amber for all her hard work and for sharing her expertise and love for ministry.

The pastoral plan for the Youth and Young Adult Ministry focused on building strong relationships, strengthening communication, offering formation opportunities, and maintaining personal and professional integrity. A key priority was supporting parish leaders through one-on-one meetings, monthly check-ins, and twice-yearly visits to their youth or young adult nights. Amber also reached out to parishes without an existing youth or young adult ministry, offering guidance and support to help them get started. She extended additional support to Catholic schools, CCO, CSE, and other lay-led organizations. On a national level, Amber contributed by sitting on the Steering Committee of the Canadian Catholic Youth Ministry Network and attended monthly meetings. Event highlights for the year included a Diocesan World Youth Day celebration, planned in collaboration with the Archdiocese of Winnipeg, as well as other young adult-led

initiatives, retreats, and prayer evenings — many inspired by feedback gathered during parish visits. She maintained communication and advocacy through regular updates to the ministry's website, consistent contributions to the Weekly News Bulletin, and social media management.

Overall, 2024–2025 was a year of growth, collaboration, and renewed commitment to the vibrant, Christ-centered youth and young adult ministry here in the Archdiocese of Saint Boniface. I look forward to another fruitful year ahead as we start our preparations for World Youth Day 2027 in Seoul, South Korea.



Catechetics and Adult Faith Growth

Diane Bélanger

French Sector

I am amazed by the work of the Holy Spirit in my two ministries of Catechesis and Adult Faith Growth.

The theme of the annual Formation Day for Catechists on March 1st was: "How to manage disturbing behaviors in catechesis?" To lead this session, the French Diocesan Catechesis Committee had asked Gilles Marchildon, a Franco-Manitoban Catholic committed to his faith, recently retired from teaching and a very good educator. Gilles, in the course of his preparation and his conversations with the three members of the Committee, felt called to offer himself to become a catechist in one of our parishes! After this training, I sent the participants and Gilles an evaluation form that included the following question: "Would you be interested in becoming a member of the Diocesan Catechesis Committee?" I was truly encouraged and amazed to see that not only were three participants interested in becoming members of the Committee, but Gilles was too! Four new members will therefore be joining our wonderful Committee this year, bringing the total number of catechetical leaders to seven! Two of these new members are African catechists from the Cathedral Parish, a community that continues to grow in our diocese thanks to the recent waves of Francophone immigration, and which - it is the case to say it! - transforms and enriches the colour of our French-speaking catechetical clientele.



In terms of Adult Faith Growth, the two Maisonnées de foi Diocesan Gatherings with our bishop were once again an opportunity for edifying testimonials about the profound fruits in the hearts of those who share the Word of God in small groups, thus lifting all participants in hope.

In December 2024, in anticipation of the Jubilee Year 2025, realizing that a French version of the Tri-Diocesan Jubilee Pilgrim's Guide was needed, I decided to roll up my sleeves and get to work to ensure a quality translation for our French-speaking and bilingual Parishes, an initiative that was greatly appreciated by our French-speaking community throughout Manitoba. I would like to thank my colleague Daniel Bahuaud, who assisted me in this work.

Koreen Hrizai

English sector

This pastoral year marked a hopeful and collaborative step forward in supporting lifelong faith formation across the archdiocese. In partnership with the Archdiocese of Winnipeg, we offered clergy formation on the RCIA process, deepening shared understanding and renewed commitment. This theme continued through our Fall Formation Series, equipping parish leaders and catechists with greater insight into the catechumenate and effective parochial approaches.

In alignment with the Jubilee 2025 theme Pilgrims of Hope, we introduced A Pilgrim's Guide in English to Jubilee 2025 Churches and Shrines for the Archdiocese of Saint-Boniface, the Archdiocese of Winnipeg, and the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Winnipeg. We provided accompanying resources and sessions to encourage reflection, prayer, and parish engagement.

Parish accompaniment remained central, with additional support for new coordinators, catechists, and RCIA leaders, including sacramental formation gatherings and one-on-one consultations. We hosted an introductory session for our new Laudato Si' 10-part series, continuing into 2025–2026, and offered timely resources to help parishes engage with the papal conclave and the election of Pope Leo XIV. Support for the Households of Faith initiative remained ongoing, with resources and guidance tailored to local needs.

A key milestone was the launch of In the Shepherd's Embrace—intentional gatherings inspired by the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. These evenings offer creative, prayerful space for community-building through material making, conversation, formation talks, and a shared meal.

We also conducted a diocesan-wide survey, analyzing current practices in parishes and identifying urgent needs. The results offered invaluable insights and have directly shaped our priorities and planning for supporting parishes in their call to form disciples and grow as synodal communities, listening together to the Holy Spirit.



Marie Brunet

The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. Psalm 103: 17

This pastoral year was filled with beautiful experiences that repeatedly reminded me that the Holy Spirit is at work in the people of God. Serving as coordinator of Marriage Services for the Archdiocese of Saint-Boniface, it has been inspiring and encouraging to be in contact with many couples who are discerning marriage in the Catholic Church. It has also been a blessing to walk alongside and provide formation to married couples called into the ministry of accompanying engaged couples toward the Sacrament of Marriage.

Some notable events and outreach efforts this pastoral year included a collaboration with the Youth and Young Adult Ministry to offer Nuptia – an evening on the vocation of Marriage, the return of the Archdiocesan Wedding Anniversary Celebration honoring milestone anniversary couples, and the Fertility Health Awareness Seminars with various methods of Natural Family Planning presented. We also hosted the Catholic Marriage Services Booth at the Wonderful Wedding Show with the Archdiocese of Winnipeg.

A particularly memorable project was the collaboration with the Catholic Foundation of Manitoba, the Archdiocese of Winnipeg, and several Marriage and Family Ministries to host the “Date Night for Married and Engaged Couples” on November 22, 2024. This event offered couples a chance to be renewed, enriched, and strengthened in their relationships. During the enrichment portion, couples could invite a priest, a counsellor, or a prayer couple to join them at their table, and it was moving to witness so many participants open to receiving support and prayer. One volunteer couple, engaged in marriage enrichment themselves, reflected: “The Date Night re-ignited our passion for our faith and our ministry!”



Nadine Fetherston

Family & Life sector

I have been truly blessed this year with the opportunity to focus on making the ministry of Family and Life more accessible throughout our diocese. This was accomplished through a variety of outreach efforts and events, including parish visits, quarterly newsletters, social media engagement, and collaborative initiatives with like-minded organizations committed to promoting the dignity of life and the vocation of family.

A particular focus this year was strengthening relationships with parish priests and pastoral councils. I visited a new parish each month to offer diocesan resources and support, shared creative ideas to inspire parishes, and listened and learned about the many grace-filled ways our parishes are already enriching family and life within their communities.

Another key focus was raising awareness of upcoming family and life events through social media and especially my quarterly newsletter. In each edition, I shared information and offered practical suggestions, resources, and activity ideas to help parishes prayerfully and meaningfully honour and engage their parishioners. This digital outreach helped me connect with new people, foster dialogue, and distribute helpful resources.



It's also been a blessing to collaborate with a variety of organizations in hosting events and initiatives supporting family and life in our diocese. Highlights from this year include Ministry of Care training for parish volunteers, the Nuptia youth event, 100K Flags for Life, Fertility Health Awareness Seminar, Manitoba Walk for Life, and the Horizons of Hope palliative care program.

As I reflect on this year, I'm filled with gratitude for the many relationships formed and for the witness of many who faithfully support family and life. I look forward to continuing this work in the coming year, walking together in faith as we build up a culture of family and life in our diocese.



Grace Dumont

Pastoral Services Event Coordinator and Administrative Assistant

Since the start of my employment in February, I've been learning the ropes of the position and haven't taken on too many major projects, but there are quite a few tasks I was able to get started on and complete, and several events that I was involved in setting up.

Some of my projects this year include work with the resource library, edits to various documents (for example, the updated Upper Room document for Parish Pastoral Councils, and the list of priests to include on prayer cards), taking monthly team meeting minutes, and organizing a bulk order for photos of the new Pope Leo XIV for all our parishes.

I have also done a lot of background and support work on various events this year, such as the Rite of Election, the Chrism Mass, the Diocesan Pastoral Council, the Sponsor Couple Formation Day, the Anniversary Mass, and the Multicultural Mass. In preparation for these events I have updated documents, put together volunteer teams, confirmed bookings, ordered materials, made slides, and the like. During the events I have worked at registration tables, overseen volunteers, taken minutes, taken photos, and even offered music ministry.

I appreciate the opportunity to help out in all these little ways, because the little things certainly do add up. I believe there is goodness and beauty in simple work, and in the quiet support of others. I pray that I will be able to grow in my ability to perform this work, and in my appreciation for it, in the year to come.



James Kautz

Director of Pastoral Services

One of the highlights of my pastoral year was a fruit of the Chrism Mass on April 15. This is the Mass where the Archbishop blesses the Oil of the Sick, the Oil of Catechumens, and the Chrism Oil to be used by priests and deacons for various sacramental anointings during the coming year. My main role within that liturgy is to ensure that the oils are available to be distributed to parish representatives right after the Mass. The large silver urns in which the oil is blessed are poured into about three hundred small bottles and packaged into boxes. We have less than thirty minutes to get those ready, as people come to collect their parish's oils as soon as Mass ends. To prepare, we recruited a team of a dozen volunteers and had them arrive early for some training and a free supper. Two of those volunteers happened to be a mother and daughter from my own parish.

Two days later, on Holy Thursday, my parish's new oils were processed up during Mass. That mother and her daughter were there, and I couldn't help but smile when I saw the look of recognition on the daughter's face when she saw the oil she had helped to distribute be brought into the sacramental reality of our own home parish. She had seen this liturgical procession every year, but she shared with me that this year it took on a new, deeper meaning for her. She realized that she was part of a much larger family of believers and that we were all connected under our Archbishop in a deeper way than she had ever understood before.

Much of the work I do with this amazing team is done quietly and behind the scenes. The opportunities to see it directly impact somebody's journey of faith like this are rare, and I cherish those golden moments when they happen.



Paulette Vielfaure Dupuis

Chairperson, Committee for the Renewal & Growth of Parish Pastoral Councils (PPCs)

Committee Members: Paulette Vielfaure Dupuis (chair), Alesa Sutherland, Raynald Dupuis, Gisèle Evecsyn, Fr. Chrys Agu, and Fr. Charles Fillion.

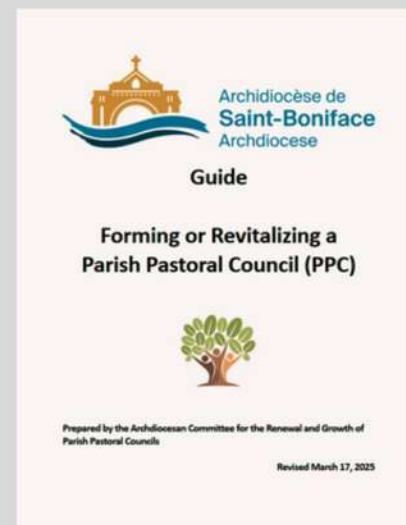
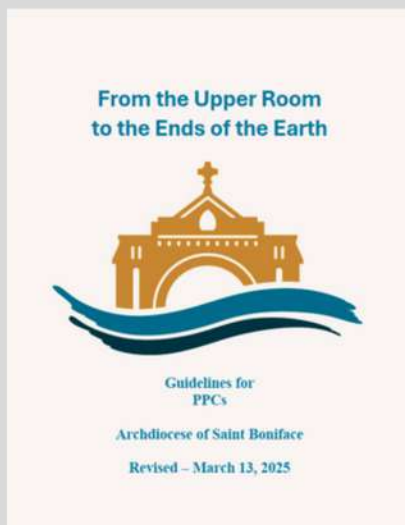
Our committee offers guidance, suggests resources, and provide formation and training to local PPCs. This includes going out to assist parishes where required. We regularly meet with the Archbishop and the Director of Pastoral Services and develop and deliver presentations and workshops on PPC best practices and procedures.

In recent years we've worked with the parishes of St. Norbert, Holy Cross, St. Bernadette, Sts Martyrs Canadiens, and St. Mary in Beausejour. We're excited to watch those parishes and their PPCs continue to grow. Currently we're working with the PPCs of Saint-Boniface Cathedral, Holy Redeemer, St. Joseph the Worker, St. Adolphe, St. Kizito, Christ Our Saviour in Steinbach, Notre-Dame-de-la-Nativité in Somerset, St. Martin of Tours in Swan Lake, St. Léon, Notre Dame de la Miséricorde in Île des Chênes, and Notre Dame de Lourdes. Coming up, we'll be working with the parishes of St. Michael's in Cooks Creek, Sacred Heart of Jesus in Garson, and St. John Paul II in Oakbank.

I also chair the Diocesan Pastoral Council, which meets twice a year. The council's membership is the chairs and vice-chairs of all PPCs, and it gives the Archbishop and pastoral services team an opportunity to gather broad input and hear feedback from the entire archdiocese. This effort is guided by the Church's recent emphasis on synodality, which essentially means adopting a posture of listening to how the Holy Spirit is moving in the lives of the faithful and incorporating that movement into diocesan priorities.



Key Documents:



September 18, 2024: Mass to launch the pastoral year, in Salon Provencher at the Archdiocesan Centre, with retired and resident priests concelebrating.



September 21, 2024: interdiocesan catechist formation session, a collaboration of the two Archdioceses of Saint-Boniface and Winnipeg, in Salle Baudoux at the Archdiocesan Centre.



October 23, 2025, at St. Timothy's Parish: Vocations panel. Facilitated by interim Youth and Young Adult Ministry Coordinator Amber Wsiaki, with Sr. Orianne and Sr. Faye from the Daughters of St. Paul in Toronto, and our co-directors of Vocation Promotion to the Diocesan Priesthood, Fr. Brian Trueman and Fr. Serge Buissé.



Dec 29, 2024: Archbishop LeGatt celebrated the Rite of the opening of the Jubilee Year of 2025. The Mass included a sprinkling rite for the renewal of our baptismal promises for all the lay faithful, including our priests.



January 6, 2025: Archbishop LeGatt blessed chalk for the Feast of Epiphany. He then blessed each room of the Archdiocesan Centre with holy water. If you visit, you'll see the chalk writing from the 2025 Epiphany Blessing is still visible above the front door.



February 9, 2025: The major relics of St. Jean de Brébeuf, St. Charles Garnier, St. Gabriel Lalemant, and St. Kateri Tekakwitha visited Paroisse Saints-Martyrs and Saint-Boniface Cathedral for veneration by thousands of the lay faithful.





February 22, 2025: Welcoming visitors to the Catholic Marriage Services Booth at the Wonderful Wedding Show (RBC Convention Centre). An initiative of the Marriage, Family & Life Office of Saint Boniface, in collaboration with the Archdiocese of Winnipeg.

April 5, 2025: Semi-annual meeting of the Diocesan Pastoral Council. Representatives from twenty-five Parish Pastoral Councils (PPC) met, in-person and virtually, to pray, to learn, and to share on the theme of communication within the context of the pastoral life of a parish community.



June 12, 2025: Diocesan Pentecost Gathering, in French, for powerful testimonies and a shared Maisonnées de Foi (Households of Faith) experience.

