

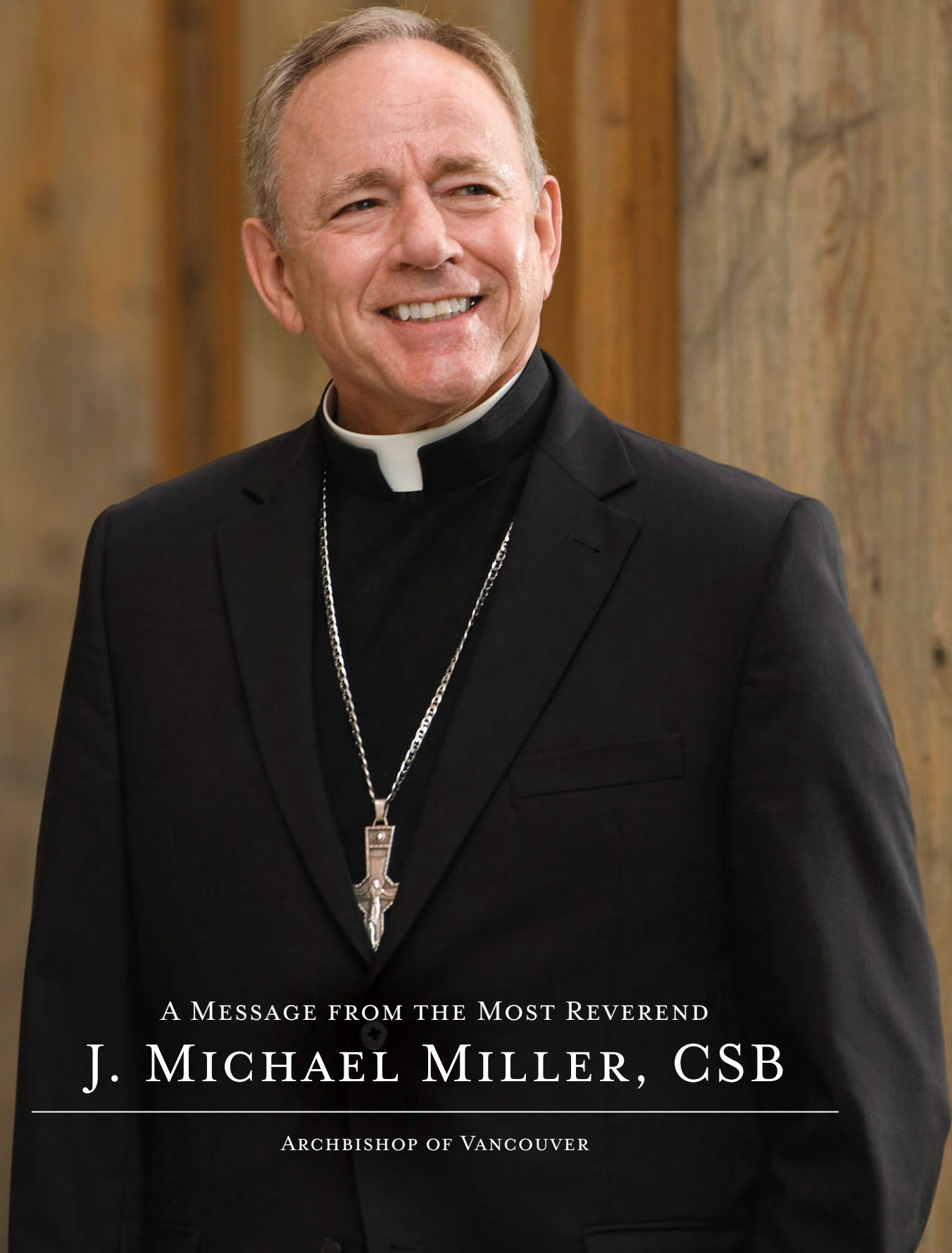


Archdiocese  
of Vancouver

# COMMITTED TO SERVICE

2017/2018 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF VANCOUVER





A MESSAGE FROM THE MOST REVEREND  
**J. MICHAEL MILLER, CSB**

ARCHBISHOP OF VANCOUVER

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In its 2,000-year history, the Catholic Church has never been without challenges, and it is no different today. These are troubling times, even as we attempt to respond as swiftly, thoroughly, and conscientiously as possible. The Church faces these challenges, confident in Jesus' promise that he will always accompany us even in the face of trials that can seem to overwhelm us.

We must also never lose sight of the fact we have so much to be thankful for, and it is appropriate at times like this to take stock and express our gratitude for the many blessings the Church receives. This Annual Report allows us to reflect on God's gifts and treasures, signs that he is blessing the Archdiocese of Vancouver even as we struggle to respond to the trials that God allows for his own purposes.

An immense treasure for the Archdiocese in recent years, on which we are focussing in a special way this year, is the gift of our permanent deacons. Thanks to the sacrifice of these men and their families, and the blessing of God, we are fortunate to have 24 ordained deacons who are committed to serving the Archdiocese in those areas of ministry deemed most essential.

Consider how these men are of immense assistance in helping us work toward our Priorities and Goals.

They are helping us **Make Every Sunday Matter**, by assisting in liturgies in parishes throughout the Archdiocese.

They are helping us **Get Closer to Jesus**, as they provide pastoral care in parishes, schools, hospitals, and prisons. In addition, they bring the Good News and their personal gifts to dedicated ministries such as Courage, which works with the same-sex attracted; to seafarers in Vancouver's ports; and to the grieving at our Catholic cemeteries. We have several deacons who are serving First Nations communities, while others are specifically assigned to work with Catholics in our Hispanic, Filipino, and Eritrean communities. They work with interfaith and ecumenical gatherings, as well as with our charismatic renewal community.

Our deacons' presence is also helping us **Strengthen Marriages and Families** through the spiritual support and guidance they offer our parish communities. By preaching and celebrating baptisms and weddings, by offering pastoral care, and by sharing their talents and skills with the faithful, they provide much-needed assistance to our busy priests.

None of this would be taking place without the support and prayers of our faithful lay people, priests, and consecrated women and men. It is you who, through your loving generosity, make possible this ministry in the Archdiocese of Vancouver. Every day, thousands of lives are being changed, healed, inspired, encouraged, and strengthened through the sacraments and pastoral care. Your gifts to the Church and God's people continually leave me profoundly grateful for the privilege of shepherding this flock to which God has assigned me.

With the assurance of my prayers, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ J. Michael Miller, CSB  
Archbishop of Vancouver



# OUR EVANGELIZING MISSION: PRIORITIES AND GOALS

AS AN ARCHDIOCESE, our evangelizing mission is to help people personally experience God’s merciful love.

“EACH OF YOU IS CRUCIAL TO THIS ENDEAVOUR, BY LENDING A HAND AND OFFERING ADVICE ON HOW WE CAN ALL WORK TOGETHER.”

Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB

We are invited to focus our pastoral efforts and mission through the following priorities and goals:



**MAKE EVERY SUNDAY MATTER**

- Celebrate like we mean it
- Welcome like we mean it



**GET CLOSER TO JESUS**

- Foster personal encounters
- Promote discipleship paths



**STRENGTHEN MARRIAGES AND FAMILIES**

- Provide support for parents seeking to acquire additional parenting skills
- Connect people in need with support services that address their challenges



**DEVELOP PARISH LEADERSHIP AND SUPPORT**

- Parishes are called to be dynamic communities of missionary disciples

**Our mission is possible because of your support and prayers.**

**Join the Intercessory Prayer Network at [RCAV.ORG/IPN](https://RCAV.ORG/IPN)**

*Every month, we invite our community to pray intentionally for the success of our evangelizing mission. Each prayer intention is aligned with one of our four Archdiocesan Priorities and Goals.*

# ARCHDIOCESE AT A GLANCE

**155** years of service: *Established in 1863 as the Vicariate Apostolic of British Columbia and in 1908 as the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Vancouver*

**77** parishes

**50** schools and **3** institutions of higher education

**437,245** Catholics

**2,262** catechists

**2017**

**2,936** Baptisms

**2,727** Confirmations

**3,003** First Communions

**639** Marriages

“IF HOPE IS THE MEASURE OF FAITHFULNESS, I AM TRULY GRATIFIED AT HOW THE ARCHDIOCESE OF VANCOUVER’S PASTORAL ACTIVITIES, MINISTRIES, AND PROGRAMS TODAY ARE OFFERING HOPE TO OUR MORE THAN 435,000 CATHOLICS AS WELL AS COUNTLESS OTHERS IN THE LOWER MAINLAND.”

Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB



# PARISH VISIT

IN 2017, Archbishop Miller announced he would be visiting all 77 parishes in the Archdiocese of Vancouver. The Parish Visit is an occasion for rejuvenating the energies of a parish, for encouraging and strengthening its clergy and lay faithful, and for fostering the evangelizing mission of the Church.

To date he has visited nine parishes, including at least one from each of the six deaneries:



1. Corpus Christi, Vancouver
2. St. Matthew, Surrey
3. Holy Trinity, North Vancouver
4. St. Andrew, Vancouver
5. Holy Spirit, New Westminster
6. Sts. Joachim and Ann, Langley
7. St. Francis of Assisi, Vancouver
8. Our Lady of Good Counsel, Surrey
9. St. Francis de Sales, Burnaby

Parishes have responded positively and with great enthusiasm as they prepare to receive the Archbishop. Planning for the visit brings the parish community together. The visit engages parishioners, focuses on how the Archdiocesan priorities and goals are being lived out, and includes opportunities for discussion and social interaction. It is a unique and special time for the parish.



## WHAT HAPPENS AT A PARISH VISIT?

Parish visits usually last from Thursday evening to Sunday morning and include meetings with all parish groups and a meet-and-greet reception for all parishioners.

When possible, Archbishop Miller celebrates Mass, offers the Sacrament of the Sick, and meets teachers and students in the school.

Pastors report they are pleased with the results and the Archbishop has been able to see for himself the spiritual life and many of the ministries in the parish.

“AS NOTARY FOR THE PASTORAL VISIT, I HAVE SEEN FIRSTHAND THE PRIDE AND LOVE OF PARISHIONERS FOR THEIR PASTOR AND OTHER CLERGY. IT IS A JOY TO SEE THIS UNFOLD AND I AM SURE THE POSITIVE EFFECTS WILL LAST A LONG TIME.”

*Barbara Dowding, Vice-Chancellor*

“POPE FRANCIS HAS CALLED ON BISHOPS TO BE SHEPHERDS WHO ENCOUNTER THEIR FLOCK. IN THIS SPIRIT, I LOOK FORWARD TO SPENDING TIME IN PARISHES THROUGH THIS NEW INITIATIVE.”

*Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB*

# PERMANENT DIACONATE PROGRAM

Since the beginning of the Permanent Diaconate Program, Archbishop Miller has ordained 24 deacons to join him and our priests in Christ's threefold mission of teaching, sanctifying, and leading the people of God.

FROM MSGR. GREGORY SMITH, DIRECTOR OF THE PERMANENT DIACONATE OFFICE

**THE PERMANENT DIACONATE OFFICE** assists the Archbishop in overseeing the formation and ministry of permanent deacons in the Archdiocese. Men preparing for the diaconate receive academic, human, and spiritual formation through St. Mark's College and other programs organized by the Permanent Diaconate Office. The formation program lasts four to five years.

In May 2017, three men were ordained, and in October 2017, two more. A sixth deacon was ordained in December 2017 during a bilingual liturgy attended by many members of the Spanish-speaking Catholic community. In May 2018, Archbishop Miller also ordained a leader of the Eritrean community, Dr. Paulos Teckle. Deacon Teckle has also been a major help to Eritrean refugees, who continue to arrive from their troubled homeland. The Permanent Diaconate Office is now overseeing the training of nine men in the first stages of formation and has welcomed three new aspirants.

Although our deacons are appointed to a wide variety of ministries – parishes, hospitals, prisons, ports, First Nations ministry, Filipino ministry, and Hispanic ministry – all, whether appointed to a parish or not, exercise liturgical ministry at the altar in our parishes. Many also preach at Mass. By enriching the Sunday celebration with their presence, which is a reminder of the Church's service to the poor and needy, our deacons help to “make every Sunday matter.”

Recruitment for the fourth cohort of permanent deacons begins with introductory sessions next Spring. Successful applicants will begin their formation in September 2019.



“THE DIACONATE IS A **VOCATION FROM GOD**; IT IS NEITHER A JOB NOR A VOLUNTEER POSITION.”

*Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB*



# GET TO KNOW OUR DEACONS

**THE FIRST PERMANENT DEACONS** were ordained in 2015 and are now serving throughout our local Church in the ministries of the liturgy, the word, and charity.

In 2018 the Permanent Diaconate Program is the beneficiary of the Archbishop's Dinner. Funds generated through the dinner ensure our Archdiocese has trained ministers to serve our parishes, reach out to the poor and marginalized, and contribute to the Church's presence in hospitals, First Nations communities, ports, prisons, and ecumenical gatherings, among many other places.



**DEACON RAUL ABELLA**  
Pastoral Care,  
Surrey Memorial Hospital  
 Precious Blood



**DEACON DILEEP ATHAIDE**  
Catholic Chaplaincy Coordinator,  
Port of Vancouver  
 Sacred Heart (Ladner)



**DEACON GREG BARCELON**  
Parish Deacon, All Saints  
Coordinator, Filipino Ministry  
 All Saints



**DEACON MIKE BOREHAM**  
Parish Deacon,  
St. Patrick's (Van.)  
 St. Helen



**DEACON ALAN CAVIN**  
Parish Deacon, St. James  
 St. James



**DEACON RICHARD CHAU**  
Parish Deacon,  
Holy Rosary Cathedral  
 Holy Rosary Cathedral



**DEACON PATRICK DWAN**  
Parish Deacon,  
St. Helen's  
 St. Francis de Sales



**DEACON BRUCE FRASER**  
Parish Deacon,  
Our Lady of Sorrows  
Coordinator, Encourage  
 Our Lady of Sorrows



**DEACON KEN FUNG**  
Gardens of Gethsemani,  
Catholic Cemeteries  
Assists at Our Lady of  
Mercy Parish  
 Our Lady of Mercy



**DEACON PETER GOMES**  
Pastoral Care, Holy Family Hospital  
Coordinator, Archdiocesan  
Renewal Committee (ARC)  
 Our Lady of Fatima (Coquitlam)



**DEACON TONY GRAY**  
Parish Deacon,  
St. Anthony's (West Van.)  
 St. Anthony (West Vancouver)



**DEACON ANDREW KUNG**  
Parish Deacon,  
St. Anthony of Padua (Van.)  
 Canadian Martyrs



**DEACON HENK LUYTEN**  
Assistant Director,  
Permanent Diaconate Office  
 Immaculate Conception (Delta)



**DEACON TERRY MCLAUGHLIN**  
Pastoral Care,  
Kwikwexwelhp Healing Village  
 St. Joseph (Mission)



**DEACON JAMIE MESKAS**  
Missions, Sts'ailes & Seabird  
Island (*First Nations Missions*)  
 St. Anthony of Padua (Agassiz)



**DEACON SIMON MOON**  
Pastoral Training,  
Royal Columbian Hospital  
 St. Agnes Kim



**DEACON TIM MORRIS**  
Pastoral Care,  
Pacific Institution  
 Holy Cross



**DEACON RENNIE NAHANEE**  
Coordinator, First Nations Ministry  
Assists at St. Paul's (North Van.)  
 St. Paul's (North Van.)



**DEACON HILMAR PABEL**  
Coordinator, Courage  
 St. Pius X



**DEACON RICHARD PODGURSKI**  
Pastoral Care,  
Lions Gate Hospital  
 Holy Trinity



**DEACON ALVIN RINT**  
Parish Deacon,  
Holy Rosary Cathedral  
 St. Francis de Sales



**DEACON DAN RITCHIE**  
Parish Deacon,  
St. Joseph's (Langley)  
 St. Joseph's (Langley)



**DEACON RAUL SOLANO**  
Pastoral Care, Hispanic Ministry  
(*through Our Lady of Sorrows Parish*)  
 Our Lady of Good Counsel



**DEACON PAULOS TECKLE**  
Pastoral Coordinator,  
Eritrean Catholic Community  
 St. Francis de Sales

# VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD AND CONSECRATED LIFE

2017

- 116 diocesan priests
- 108 religious priests
- 104 professed women religious
- 30 professed religious brothers



## A NEW COMMUNITY IN THE ARCHDIOCESE

We have also welcomed a new community of Salesian Sisters to the Archdiocese at Our Lady of Good Counsel, Surrey:

- Sr. Antionette Cedrone, FMA
- Sr. Hae-Jin Lim, FMA
- Sr. Beatrice Valot, FMA

## ACTIVE STEPS IN DISCERNMENT

THE VOCATIONS OFFICE actively runs discernment events for single men and women throughout the year.

Vocations in Progress for men is an opportunity for men to meet priests, ask questions, and learn about their life and spirituality. This informal event includes prayer, dinner, and discussion and is run by the Director of Vocations, Father Rodney Nootebos.

*Fiat:* Women's Discernment Activities has attracted over 30 participants who are open to discerning God's call in life. Led by Sister Mary Sabina, OP, their monthly events include days of recollection, movie night, hikes, and a snowshoeing trip. This year they held the first weekend women's vocations retreat in several years. Fourteen young women spent the weekend at Westminster Abbey in Mission and learned about religious life and how to discern and respond to God's personal call. Several young women have taken active steps in their discernment and formation process.



## PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS

On Good Shepherd Sunday, the Vocations Office invited parishes and schools to pray the Rosary, especially as a family, with the intention of an increase in vocations to the **priesthood** and **consecrated life**.

Prayers truly do bear fruit! This year, the Vocations Office accepted six applications from young men wishing to study as seminarians for the diocesan priesthood. They are now engaged in the Spirituality Year Program, which has been initiated at the Seminary of Christ the King. Two young women have also entered religious communities as postulants in the past year and several have visited religious communities as part of their discernment.



## VOCATION MILESTONES

### JUNE 2017

Deacons Juan Lucca, Francesco Voltaggio, and Giovanni Schiesari ordained to the priesthood

### OCTOBER 2017

Sister Elizabeth Marie Tjoelker, OP, made her First Profession of Vows

### DECEMBER 2017

Seminarian Guy Zidago received the Sacrament of Holy Orders when he was ordained to the diaconate

### JUNE 2018

Sister Florentina Marie Tarimo, OP, made her Solemn Vows

### SEPTEMBER 2018

Brother Bartholomew Bruneau, OSB, made his Solemn Profession of Vows, and Sister Marie Thomas Lowrie, OP, made her First Profession of Vows

# YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

**YOUTH MINISTRY** in the Archdiocese of Vancouver continues to form active and intentional disciples of Jesus Christ.

46 of 77 parishes have regular gatherings for youth.

**Spirit Day** is designed to celebrate the Grade 7 students of our Archdiocese and has grown tremendously since the inaugural event in February 2005.

In 2017, 1,778 youth and 281 adult leaders participated, with more than 120 volunteers.

**Searching in the Spirit** is a fun and faith-filled experience of Christian community that deepens the newly-confirmed young person's understanding of the special gifts that the Spirit has given them.

In 2017, 64 youth participated, accompanied by 11 adult leaders, with 14 Leadership Team members who ran programming for the week.

The annual **Youth Ministry collection** in December 2017 received \$139,600. The purpose of this special Archdiocesan collection is to assist the work of the Ministries and Outreach Office in providing formation, training, and support to parish youth ministries, and to support local parish initiatives and leadership by means of a rebate.

**YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY** supports parishes and young adult leaders by connecting people and organizations, providing training and resources, and facilitating Archdiocesan events.

## CATHOLIC GAP YEAR

Earlier this year, we piloted a project encouraging young adults to take a Catholic Gap Year to serve with notable organizations and ministries, while receiving excellent faith formation. This year, seven young adults applied, and five bursaries of \$500 from the Archdiocese of Vancouver were awarded. With the success of this program, we plan to continue promoting Catholic Gap Year among young adults for the foreseeable future.

## GETTING TO KNOW OUR YOUNG ADULTS

The Ministries and Outreach Office is undertaking research in an effort to improve young adult ministry. We hope to discover why many young adults no longer practise their faith, and what they need in order to grow as authentic followers of Christ. We continue to promote a variety of young adult ministry offerings within the Archdiocese and are planning new initiatives for 2019.

## WORLD YOUTH DAY 2019 AND ALPHA

Our current focus is on preparing pilgrims for World Youth Day 2019 in Panama and launching a series of Alpha courses with a focus on young adults. Please keep these young adults in your prayers.

“GOING ON A CATHOLIC GAP YEAR HELPED ME CLEARLY SEE GOD’S MISSIONARY CALL IN MY LIFE. WITH MENTORSHIP AND TRAINING FROM CCO, I LEARNED LEADERSHIP AND FOUND TIME TO DISCERN WHAT THE LORD WAS CALLING ME TO DO FOR WORK, IN MY LIFE, AND FOR THE CHURCH.”

*Joseph San Jose,  
Catholic Christian Outreach Missionary*



# STRENGTHEN MARRIAGES AND FAMILIES

### MARRIAGE PREPARATION

This past year, we offered 13 Marriage Prep courses in four different locations: Vancouver, Coquitlam, Surrey, and Richmond. 531 couples (1,062 participants) took part.

Participants report a positive experience of marriage preparation. One couple who completed Marriage Prep in Fall 2017 tied the knot earlier this year at Our Lady of Mercy Parish (see photo below). The bride participated in RCIA and was fully initiated into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil in 2017.

### MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT

Not only do we focus on preparing couples for marriage, but we also offer workshops for marriage enrichment such as the Couples Connect Workshop.

Our strategic partnership with Worldwide Marriage Encounter (WwME), the pro-marriage organization that promotes Weekend experiences for couples, and Retrouvaille, a program for married couples facing difficult challenges in their relationship, allows us to promote their outreach to couples, helping to strengthen marriages and families. 20 couples registered for Canada's first non-residential Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend which was held at the John Paul II Pastoral Centre.

On May 13, 2018, Archbishop Miller celebrated a special Mass honouring 225 couples celebrating their milestone anniversaries. The Marriage Anniversary Mass will now become an annual event.

I ENJOYED THIS MORE THAN I THOUGHT I WOULD. WE, AS A COUPLE, CONNECTED IN NEW WAYS AND DISCOVERED PARTS OF US THAT NEEDED IMPROVEMENT.”

Participant at Couples Connect Workshop



### PARENTING WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

Within this past year, the Ministries and Outreach Office partnered with parishes to offer 20 parenting talks and workshops across our Archdiocese on topics such as: Making Sense of Anxiety; Your Brain on Twitter; Managing Difficult Conversations with Children; Grief and Loss in the Family, and Alpha's Parenting Teens.

We have also begun to collaborate with various movements in our Archdiocese to establish a team that will spearhead two large-scale Archdiocesan events for families per year.

### SUPPORTING OUR FAMILIES

Our list of registered professional counsellors (Catholic and Christian from other traditions) continues to grow and now includes Spanish and Tagalog-speaking counsellors.

10 Catholic counsellors from our list of registered counsellors and from our schools attended a conference by the Neufeld Institute which uses developmental science to help make sense of children to the adults responsible for them.



I THANK GOD THAT MANY FAMILIES, WHICH ARE FAR FROM CONSIDERING THEMSELVES PERFECT, LIVE IN LOVE, FULFILL THEIR CALLING, AND KEEP MOVING FORWARD, EVEN IF THEY FALL MANY TIMES ALONG THE WAY...”

Pope Francis, Amoris Laetitia 57

# MEN'S AND WOMEN'S RETREATS

OUR ANNUAL RETREATS for men and women have been a wonderful success. The weekends are full of life-changing experiences, but, more than that, they are a launch pad for men and women to dive deeper into their faith and become disciples of Christ in their daily walk.

**SOLD-OUT RETREATS**

In 2017, both retreats for men and women were sold out!

- 255 men personally encountered God the Father and experienced his generous love over the retreat weekend. The theme for the Men's Retreat was *Filius Patris* (Son of the Father).
- 200 women encountered God at their retreat. The theme for the Women's Retreat was "Unfailing".

The weekend experience provided opportunities for prayer and worship, fellowship, workshops, sacraments, music, adventure, laughter, and rest.

“IT WAS A BLESSED EVENT. I PRAY THAT ALL MEN AND WOMEN, YOUNG AND OLD, AT OUR PARISHES COULD EXPERIENCE THE LOVE OF THE FATHER THE WAY WE DID THAT WEEKEND.”

Retreat Participant

**BEYOND THE RETREAT EXPERIENCE**

We have intentionally provided solid resources to help our retreat participants continue their journey after the weekend, because we want all men and women to grow in their relationship with God and their faith community beyond the weekend experience:

- Weekly podcasts
- Bible studies
- Spiritual books
- Small groups discussions
- Follow-up gatherings

**RECONNECTING WITH GOD**

Many have commented on how the retreat weekends far exceeded their expectations and provided a powerful reconnection with God that propelled them to live their faith more seriously.

Our hope is that, as men and women are encouraged to be intentional disciples and live out their God-given calling and mission, it will strengthen their relationships, marriages, and parish communities to be places of vibrant faith, hope and love.



# DISCOVER DISCIPLESHIP

“THE JOURNEY OF THIS FAITH STUDY HAS BROUGHT ME TO JESUS. I HAVE COME TO EXPERIENCE AND TRUST IN HIS LOVE AND REALIZE HIS LOVE FOR ME. IT IS NOT SIMPLY THE MATERIAL WE STUDY BUT THE EXPERIENCE OF CONVERSION THAT IS OFTEN WITNESSED AT OUR MEETINGS THAT HAS DRAWN ME IN.”

Tim McKinnon, St. Matthew's Parish

IN THE SUMMER OF 2017, the Ministries and Outreach Office launched the Discover Discipleship program, piloting this new model in six parishes.

Discover Discipleship is a program that uses the Faith Studies developed by Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO) and helps parishes form missionary disciples. Through this program, participants can strengthen their relationship with Jesus, grow in fellowship with other parishioners and learn how to share the faith with others.

Over this past year:

- More than 500 people participated in the CCO Discovery and Source faith study
- 100 faith study groups were held
- 14 parishes participated

At the Discover Discipleship one-year anniversary gathering in July 2018, 100 people gathered to celebrate the success of this program at St. Matthew's Parish.



# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES ACROSS OUR ARCHDIOCESE

A **CATECHIST** makes Christ known, loved, and followed by those who take part in our programs. With 2,262 catechists in our Archdiocese, we are grateful for their dedication and care given to passing on the Catholic faith to our young people.

## PREP

The Ministries and Outreach Office assists parishes in the development and implementation of the Parish Religious Education Program (PREP), a program that provides religious instruction to over 6,500 children from Grades K-7 who don't receive religious education at school.

## LWC

Liturgy of the Word with Children (LWC) is a pre-catechetical religious program of formation that provides children ages 3-7 with the opportunity to participate at Mass while hearing God's Word proclaimed in a way they can relate to and understand.

## CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) is Montessori-based religious education that aims to help children and adults have a "living encounter with the living God." The number of atriums (CGS classrooms) has grown in the past year as more catechists desire to be trained in this methodology. The students look forward to working with the hands-on sensorial materials CGS provides.

## RCIA

The Ministries and Outreach Office assists parishes in implementing the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), a program that invites adults who are not Catholic or have been inactive Catholics to discover Jesus Christ. This past year Alpha and Discover Discipleship programs have been incorporated into many RCIA programs.



# REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

## 2017 ARRIVALS

312 persons from Eritrea, Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, and Syria sponsored by eight parishes and two missions (St. George Melkite and St. Paul Chaldean parishes) were settled in the Archdiocese.

## 2017 APPLICATIONS

85 applications were submitted to sponsor 194 persons and these applications are now being processed for 17 parishes in the Archdiocese, one parish in the Diocese of Whitehorse, and one mission.

**THIS PAST YEAR** we have seen the number of Eritrean refugees increase. Eritrean refugees fleeing human rights abuses have risked human traffickers and drowning in the Mediterranean Sea in their struggle for a life of freedom.

Deacon Paulos Teckle, ordained in May 2018, has been assigned to take care of the Eritrean community, including the Eritrean refugees who come through the sponsorship program of the Archdiocese. He is North America's first permanent deacon from the Ge'ez Rite, an ancient Catholic Rite in Eritrea and Ethiopia.

“WE ARE GOING TO SING, WE ARE GOING TO PRAISE THE LORD, FOR ALL OF THE WONDERFUL THINGS HE HAS DONE, NOT ONLY IN OUR COMMUNITY BUT IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF VANCOUVER.”

*Deacon Paulos Teckle*



# ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING

**ESTABLISHED IN NOVEMBER 2013**, the goal of the Anti-Human Trafficking Committee of the Archdiocese of Vancouver is to raise awareness of the negative consequences of abrogating the Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act. The legalization of prostitution increases the demand and expands the market, causing greater violation of the human rights of women.

## OUR CALL TO ACTION

- More than 1,000 Catholics in 15 parishes and schools learned how to prevent sexual exploitation before it happens through our film screening of *Red Light Green Light*
- 17 of our billboards were displayed across the Lower Mainland with messaging that “Buying Sex is A Crime”
- More than 200 people attended our event featuring Valiant Richey, then-prosecuting attorney for Seattle, who worked specifically on reducing the demand side of prostitution

In the Fall of 2018, we are continuing to work relentlessly on education through collaboration with parishes, other dioceses across Canada, and a consortium of abolitionist groups.

Visit [www.thetraffickedhuman.org](http://www.thetraffickedhuman.org) to learn more.



# CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

40 elementary schools

10 secondary schools

3 institutions of higher education

16,386 students

1,512 teachers and education assistants

AS OF 2017, we had a combined student population of **16,386 students**. 87% of students enrolled in Catholic schools are Catholic, with Catholic enrollment at individual schools varying significantly between 51% and 100%.

Catholic Independent Schools Vancouver Archdiocese (CISVA) employs **1,512 Teachers and Education Assistants**. As a result of a broadened recruitment strategy, the **CISVA recently hired 7 teachers from Ireland and 6 teachers from Ontario**.

## HIGHLIGHTS ON SCHOOLS

- The Archdiocese opened Saint John Paul II Academy, a new Catholic high school (Grades 8-12) in South Surrey, in September 2018
- St. Thomas Aquinas Regional Secondary School is now engaged in a \$27M rebuild of the school. The project is scheduled for completion in the Fall of 2019
- Corpus Christi Parish has received Archdiocesan approval in principle to build a new double-stream elementary school



## INTRODUCING OUR NEW SUPERINTENDENT: DEACON HENK LUYTEN

Deacon Henk Luyten is the new Superintendent for the CISVA. Deacon Henk has been a part of the CISVA for 32 years and has served as a teacher, vice principal, principal, and deacon. His faith and expertise in Catholic education will ensure the future growth of CISVA schools as communities that “form disciples of Christ and champions of the Gospel of Life.”

## ARCHBISHOP’S SCHOLARSHIP FOR LEADERSHIP IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION AT ST. MARK’S COLLEGE

In February 2017, the Archbishop’s Scholarship for Leadership in Catholic Education was launched. In this first year of the Archbishop’s Scholarship: 16 teachers were financially reimbursed upon completion of Introduction to Scripture 505, and nine teachers for Foundations of Theology 501 at St. Mark’s College. This Fall, 13 applicants have accepted the Scholarship for Theology 505 (Christian Morality).



# CREATING A CULTURE OF LIFE

EACH YEAR ON FATHER’S DAY, we honour the gift of life through our annual Pro-life Sunday collection. In 2017, we raised \$178,542 which supported the life-affirming work of 22 pro-life organizations in the following ways:

- Purchase of fetal models
- Ultrasounds for abortion-minded clients
- Presentations and training sessions
- Pro-life club activities

“THIS IS A GREAT TIME TO BE ON THE FRONT LINES OF THE PRO-LIFE MOVEMENT.”

Father Larry Lynn, pro-life chaplain, Archdiocese of Vancouver

Through sponsorship and/or partnership, we also support the following initiatives of various pro-life organizations:

- *Monthly Pro-life Prayer Vigils:* peaceful, prayerful vigils for unborn children and their parents
- *Archbishop’s Annual Mass for Life:* on the Feast of the Holy Innocents (December 28)
- *Rachel’s Vineyard:* healing weekend for post-abortion women and men
- *40 days for Life Campaign:* an annual peaceful prayer vigil for an end to abortion
- *Focus on Life Gala Dinner:* a fundraising initiative for life-affirming messages in partnership with Signal Hill and the Christian Advocacy Society which raised \$184,094 with 468 guests in attendance
- *National Campus Life Network Symposium:* a conference for students interested in pro-life apologetics, sponsored by the Archdiocese of Vancouver
- *Presentation for priests and laity:* Guest speaker Sr. Catherine Mary Clarke, FSE, a Spiritual and Bereavement Counsellor, spoke about the sick and dying

# VANSPEC

VANSPEC OFFERS children and young adults with special needs the opportunity to learn about the Catholic faith at his or her own pace, bringing them closer to Jesus.

**BENEFITS OF VANSPEC:**

- Prepares students to receive sacraments through one-on-one catechism, an alternative to conventional PREP
- Offers praise and worship at select parishes
- Offers Bible study classes to alumni students
- Provides volunteer opportunities for alumni students
- Offers summer camp for students and alumni, paid for by a local fundraiser

In September 2017, three centres were started and now, less than one year later, an additional three parishes have opened new sites:

- Main Vanspec Centre, Vancouver
- Immaculate Conception Parish, Delta
- Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Port Coquitlam
- Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Burnaby
- St. Mary’s Parish, Vancouver
- St. Matthew’s Parish, Surrey

In 2017, 57 teaching volunteers worked with 32 students who participated in the program.

“SHE DOESN’T TALK MUCH, BUT SHE COMMUNICATES THROUGH DRAWINGS. WHEN THEY TEACH HER FAITH AND RELIGION, THEY DRAW PICTURES FOR HER. IN A REGULAR CATHOLIC CLASSROOM, THEY DON’T DRAW PICTURES, THEY JUST TALK. SHE WOULD GET NOTHING OUT OF THAT.”

A. Udovicic, parent of Vanspec student



# COMMUNICATIONS HIGHLIGHTS

THE COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE strives to connect the public – particularly the faithful – with the Church in as timely a manner as possible. It oversees all internal and external communications on behalf of the Archdiocese of Vancouver.

15,904 followers on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter across 18 social media channels

20,923 print subscribers to *The B.C. Catholic*

128,000 monthly page views on [rcav.org](http://rcav.org)

36.7% open rate in weekly Friday Report (average from March to December 2017)

32.45% open rate in weekly The Busy Catholic newsletters (average from 2017)

1,379 digital subscribers to *The B.C. Catholic*



Over 50 Catholic creators and freelancers make their skills and talents available to the Archdiocese



## THE LAUNCH OF TILMA

Tilma is an integrated digital website platform aimed at evangelizing the “digital continent” by developing tools that better connect, inform, and mobilize the laity and clergy. Tilma helps streamline everything from bulletins to donations, while promoting the priorities of pastors and parish leaders. The websites produced are high-performance and high-quality, able to stand out amidst the high cultural standards of the world today when it comes to functional and beautiful web design.

Currently 21 parishes are onboard, and 16 parishes have launched their new Tilma websites.

“I THINK CLEAN-CUT, INTEGRATED WEBSITES THAT SPEAK MORE THAN TO THE MIND, BUT TO THE HEART, CAN BE A MEANS TO HELP ATTRACT PEOPLE. THIS WEBSITE REACHES OUT AND PROVIDES THE PEOPLE WITH THE NOURISHMENT THEY NEED.”

Father Hughes, Pastor of St. Patrick's Parish

# CATHOLIC CHARITIES JUSTICE SERVICES: PRISON MINISTRY

THIS ARCHDIOCESAN MINISTRY is like no other in Canada.



Bob Buckham, Coordinator for Prison Ministry, continues to promote the ministry at weekend Masses, following up with two information sessions per parish. Through this outreach, many have opened their hearts and minds to prison ministry, which saw a 25% increase in the number of volunteers. Currently 200 volunteers are active, and more are awaiting the necessary training.

Our volunteers connect with the incarcerated through:

- Mass
- Bible studies
- Alpha
- Courses on human and faith formation

## CHRISTMAS AND EASTER CARD WRITING CAMPAIGN

In collaboration with Catholic Independent Schools of Vancouver (CISVA), we invited students from more than a dozen schools to write and decorate cards with words of encouragement for those incarcerated over the holidays.

## CANVAS BACKPACKS

Women at Fraser Valley Institution for Women assisted in making canvas backpacks. These backpacks were then filled with necessities by elementary and high school students and handed to those in need in Surrey and the Downtown Eastside by students and prison ministry volunteers.

## SUPPORT FOR RELEASED OFFENDERS

We provide volunteer support for released offenders as they re-integrate back into the community.

“YOUR THOUGHTS AND WELL WISHES FALL UPON HEAVY HEARTS IN A TIME OF NEED. THANK YOU.”

Recipient's response to our Card Writing Campaign

# CATHOLIC CHARITIES AND SHELTER SERVICES: MEN'S HOSTEL

“I NEVER WANT TO  
LOOK BACK AT THE  
LIFE I USED TO LIVE,  
AND MY GOAL IS TO  
MOVE FORWARD IN A  
MORE PRODUCTIVE  
LIFE STYLE.”

Guest from Men's Hostel

THE MEN'S HOSTEL offers 90-day stays for guests, provides case management to connect to other services, and focuses especially on finding long-term housing for men.

In 2017, the Men's Hostel registered:

- 1,997 unique guests
- 40,355 total stays, including 3,116 winter weather emergency stays
- 52% of guests aged 50 and over
- 38,856 total meals served including 2,834 Winter Weather Mat Bed meals served

Recently a guest battling long-term alcoholism reached out for help. Out of options, he wanted to change how he was living. With our support he stopped drinking and early this year left our hostel to enter a Salvation Army program where he is doing well and has never been happier. We are confident that by the end of this year he will be accepted into permanent housing. We continue to celebrate and journey with him as he meets his goals.



# THE DOOR IS OPEN

THE DOOR IS OPEN (DIO) served more than 100,000 meals this year, made possible by volunteers and donors, including families, students, and businesses. Parishes donate carloads of food every month, and the shelter receives donations from the Greater Vancouver Food Bank, not to mention generous Easter and Christmas meals provided by donors.

In 2017, The Door Is Open had:

- 257 volunteers from 20 parishes
- 206 volunteers from 14 families, individuals, civic groups, and companies
- 200 volunteers from 18 schools

A typical story: in 2011, Jacques arrived in Vancouver on a bus from Ottawa. Homeless, he camped out in Stanley Park with limited access to food. Then Jacques discovered The Door Is Open and found himself returning often because he enjoyed its atmosphere.

“There are good people here. Welcoming and loving,” Jacques said.

In Fall 2017, with winter approaching, Jacques spoke with Sister Chita, who urged him to talk with DIO counsellor Liz Fong-McLaughlin. Although reluctant, he trusted Sister Chita and for the first time in his life accepted a referral. He and Liz discussed his housing predicament, and Liz connected him with a housing outreach team.

A month later, Jacques officially received housing, where he lives to this day.



“IF IT WASN'T FOR THE DOOR IS OPEN, I DON'T KNOW WHERE I'D BE. I HOPE YOU GUYS STAY FOR A LONG TIME.”

Jacques



# CATHOLIC CEMETERIES / GARDENS OF GETHSEMANI

FINDING FAMILY HISTORY NUGGETS AND LEARNING MORE ABOUT MY GENEALOGY HAS BEEN VERY REWARDING. I HAVE A NOTEBOOK FULL OF VALUABLE MEMORIES TO SHARE WITH MY FAMILY.”

C. Roche



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CEMETERIES of the Archdiocese of Vancouver operates the Gardens of Gethsemani Cemetery, historic St. Peter’s Cemetery, and supports two parish cemeteries all with the following mission:

*We prepare the living for the life to come; we bury the dead in the Catholic tradition; and we comfort the living with compassion and care.*

In 2017, Catholic Cemeteries provided the following services:

- Assisted 930 families in preparing memorial plans
- Helped with at-need requirements for more than 440 families
- Conducted Estate & Memorial Planning presentations, encouraging parishioners to prepare for end of life on earth and eternal life
- Through the Works of Mercy Fund, assisted families who may not have the financial means to make burial arrangements
- Created an outreach program bringing people to a better understanding of Catholic teaching on eternal life through key events and lessons for students

### MY FAMILY STORY

Gardens of Gethsemani partnered with The Armchair Genealogist to offer free webinars. 148 people signed up to learn how to create their own Family History and Legacy Journal.

### A DEACON IN MINISTRY

Deacon Ken Fung serves as a Family Services Advisor at Gardens of Gethsemani. His duties include liturgical work for the chapel, support for all visiting priests, and final interment prayers for many families.

# PROJECT ADVANCE

PROJECT ADVANCE meets the growing needs of our Archdiocesan family and develops our commitment to stewardship as one faith, one Church, and one family.

We thank everyone who gave to our annual appeal. We are deeply grateful for all the support from our clergy, parish appeal volunteer teams, and our parishioners.

## HIGHLIGHTS

**\$7,325,667**

Project Advance 2017 supported the following important needs in our Archdiocese:

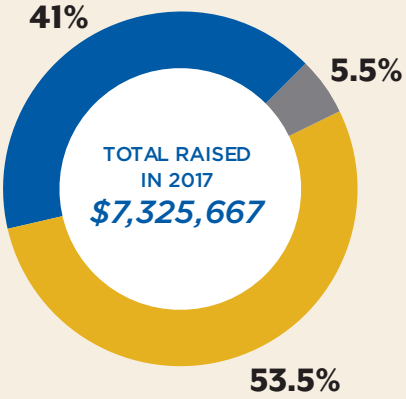
Secondary Schools Construction Fund	\$ 1,400,000
New Parish Sites Fund	\$ 650,000
Archdiocesan Ministries	\$ 450,000
Diocesan Outreach	\$ 250,000
Youth and Young Adult Ministry	\$ 100,000
Vanspec	\$ 50,000
Special Grants	\$ 100,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 3,000,000</b>

For more information

[projectadvance.ca](http://projectadvance.ca)

## 2017 DISBURSEMENTS

- ARCHDIOCESAN PROJECTS AND SPECIAL GRANTS **\$3,000,000** 41%
- PARISH REBATES **\$3,922,431** 53.5%
- ADMINISTRATION AND EXPENSES\* **\$403,236** 5.5%



## 2017 SPECIAL GRANT RECIPIENTS

- Sancta Maria House of Healing
- Signal Hill Life Education
- Tapestry Foundation for Health Care, Parkview-Youville Residence
- Columbus Residence
- Our Lady of Good Counsel Society – Domestic Abuse Services
- L’Arche Foundation of Greater Vancouver
- Catholic Voices Canada Society
- Saint James Music Academy
- Parish-based Refugee Sponsorship

\* The cost of administering Project Advance does not include local costs at the parish level.

# CARDINAL TAGLE IN VANCOUVER

“A STANDING OVATION FROM 2,700 PEOPLE REVERBERATED INSIDE THE QUEEN ELIZABETH.”

*The B.C. Catholic*

**CARDINAL LUIS ANTONIO TAGLE**, the Archbishop of Manila and President of *Caritas Internationalis*, visited Vancouver on March 19, 2018.

After celebrating Mass at Holy Rosary Cathedral, he gave a public address in the evening.

Highlighting one of our Archdiocesan Priorities and Goals: Strengthening Marriages and Families, Cardinal Tagle addressed the challenges of living the faith within family life through his talk “Keeping Families in Faith: The Domestic Church in a Global Village”. A special musical performance was given by Right Here, Write Now! followed by an opening address from Archbishop Miller.

Cardinal Tagle spoke about bringing the family together back to God and honouring family values. His message emphasized the priorities of the Archdiocese of Vancouver and his visit touched the hearts of many.

“LET US OPEN OUR EYES TO THE MANY GIFTS, ESPECIALLY IN THE FAMILY. AND WHEN YOU SEE A GIFT, YOU CARE FOR IT. YOU NURTURE IT. YOU DON'T THROW IT AWAY.”

- Cardinal Tagle

# RELIC PILGRIMAGE

**IN JANUARY**, a relic of St. Francis Xavier travelled to North America for the first time in generations. The relic pilgrimage was made possible through the partnership of the Archdiocese of Ottawa, the Jesuits in Canada, and Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO).

Across Canada, 14,000 pilgrims left their contact information with CCO for follow-up. Based on the results of the follow-up, 10,280 pilgrims reported experiencing a conversion; 6,400 pilgrims said they experienced an increase in missionary zeal; and 6,490 pilgrims experienced a healing.

Approximately **9,080 people venerated the relic in Vancouver** at St. Francis Xavier Parish, Vancouver, and All Saints Parish, Coquitlam.

“THE RELIC'S INVITATION TO THE COMMUNITY ALLOWED ME TO MEET, SPEAK, AND PRAY WITH HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE, MANY OF WHOM HAVE BEEN AWAY FROM THE CHURCH FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER. MANY WERE MOVED TO TEARS AFTER I HAD TOLD THEM ABOUT THE SIGNIFICANCE OF GOD'S PROVIDENCE BY THE RELIC VISIT.”

*Matthew Furtado*  
*St. Matthew's Parish*

# ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

**MISSION APPEAL**

The Mission Appeal Program assists missionaries who wish to visit the Archdiocese to raise awareness and to solicit donations. In 2017, over \$70,000 was raised by seven parishes within our Archdiocese to support four missions. Through the Mission Appeal, the Missionary Sisters of Mary Immaculate in Kenya were able to serve orphans, and street children and teenage girls were rescued from forced marriages; the Vincentian Congregation in Uganda and the Catholic Bishops of India were able to provide basic needs for impoverished children; and the Order of Capuchin Friars Minor were able to serve the poor and marginalized in Peru.

**CONSECRATION TO MARY**

Canada’s bishops consecrated the nation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on the 150th anniversary of Confederation in their individual dioceses and eparchies. Archbishop Miller celebrated a special Mass on July 2, 2017, at Holy Rosary Cathedral for this momentous occasion as the national Prayer of Consecration to Mary was prayed as a community.

**MASS WEDDING**

Sixty brides and grooms set a record for the largest wedding in the Archdiocese of Vancouver as they said their vows at St. Clare of Assisi Church in September 2017. The ceremony was for couples who had been civilly, but not sacramentally, married. They received the Sacrament of Matrimony in one ceremony hosted by the Filipino Ministry of the Archdiocese. The Mass Wedding has now become an annual event. In August 2018, another 30 couples said their “I dos” at a single wedding ceremony at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, Surrey.

**ECUMENICAL PRAYER SERVICE FOR UNITY**

2017 marked two significant international commemorations: the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation and the 50th anniversary of international Roman Catholic-Lutheran Dialogue. In marking this significant anniversary, Archbishop Miller and Bishop Greg Mohr, Lutheran Bishop of the B.C. Synod, came together for a joint ecumenical prayer service at St. Clare’s Catholic Church on Oct. 1, 2017, with more than 300 Catholics and Lutherans in attendance.

**NES CONFERENCE 2017:  
SETTING HEARTS ABLAZE**

The Archdiocese of Vancouver partnered with the New Evangelization Summit, a one-day international training conference held November 2017 with worship, fellowship, and inspiring speakers. 130 people attended this event.

**TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION**

Father Larry Lynn, a former filmmaker, released *In the Spirit of Reconciliation*, a documentary about First Nations people finding hope and healing after abuse. That film had its world premiere in December 2017 at SFU Woodward’s Goldcorp Centre for the Arts, followed by a panel discussion and Q&A with Father Lynn, its director; Bishop Gary Gordon of Victoria and former Bishop of Whitehorse; and Monique Sabourin, a Dene Elder and Residential School survivor.

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY**

The 2018 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, in January 2018, was themed “Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power” (Exodus 15:6). During this week we are called to celebrate this diversity and be faithful to Christ’s call for the unity of his Church. Ecumenical prayer services took place across the Lower Mainland in various churches in witness to our unity as followers of Christ.

**ONE CONFERENCE**

The annual ONE Conference brought together 791 parish and ministry leaders from across Catholic Vancouver to connect, learn, and inspire each other. Mercy and Beyond: Sharing our Joy was the theme for the 2018 conference.

**CHINESE MINISTRY**

In honour of the World Day of Prayer for China, a special Mass was offered in May 2017 at St. Francis Xavier Church, Vancouver. Visit [rcav.org/chinese-ministry](http://rcav.org/chinese-ministry) to learn more about the various activities and events hosted by the Chinese Ministry of the Archdiocese.

**FILIPINO MINISTRY**

In April 2018, Deacon Greg Barcelon, coordinator of the Filipino Ministry of the Archdiocese, hosted a consultation meeting at St. Matthew’s Parish, Surrey. Many Filipino Catholics attended to provide feedback on Filipino Ministry. Visit [rcav.org/filipino-ministry](http://rcav.org/filipino-ministry) to learn more about the various activities and events hosted by the Filipino Ministry of the Archdiocese.



# FINANCIALS AT A GLANCE

Combined Statement of Operations for Pastoral Centre  
and Parishes of the Archdiocese of Vancouver  
Year ended December 31, 2017

FINANCIAL COUNCIL FOR THE ARCHDIOCESE OF VANCOUVER

- Most Rev. J. Michael Miller, Chair
- Very Rev. Gary Franken, Vice-Chair
- Michael Donelson
- Mark Galvin
- Very Rev. Stanley Galvon
- Andrew Lai
- Rev. Msgr. Dennis Luterbach
- William McCarthy
- George Pinto
- Connie Shepherd
- Norman Tsui
- Rosemarie Wertschek
- Francis Wong
- Johnny Yang

The Finance Office is pleased to publish externally audited financial statements for the Archdiocese of Vancouver at [rcav.org/administration-finance](http://rcav.org/administration-finance)

2017

REVENUE

Ordinary Collections	\$ 33,603,754
Building Fund Collections	\$ 5,521,265
Project Advance Annual Appeal	\$ 7,325,667
Activities and Events	\$ 7,016,501
Fundraising for Schools	\$ 2,214,876
National and Diocesan Collections	\$ 2,039,512
Investment Income	\$ 2,021,228
Special Collections for Disaster Relief	\$ 584,017
Other	\$ 3,421,424
Bequests and Major Gifts	\$ 2,279,840

\$66,028,084

EXPENSES

Parish Operations	\$ 31,265,383
Pastoral Centre Operations	\$ 7,883,661
Diocesan Grants and Expenditures	\$ 717,734
School Subsidies	\$ 3,944,419
National and Diocesan Collections	\$ 2,039,512
Debt Service	\$ 868,496
Special Collections for Disaster Relief	\$ 584,017

\$47,303,222

Net Surplus before Capital Expenditures	\$ 18,725,391
Proceeds from Sale of Properties	\$ 13,000,030

\$31,725,421

Deduct Capital Expenses	\$ 11,623,883
Deduct Reserve for Future Projects: Parish	\$ 14,822,109
Deduct Reserve for Future Projects: Archdiocese	\$ 5,177,891

NET SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR

\$101,538

Acknowledgements to the offices of the John Paul II Pastoral Centre  
and our many photographers for their contributions to this report.

Coordinated by the Communications Office



Archdiocese  
of Vancouver

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