



# ENRICHING PARISH LIFE

2022/2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Archdiocese  
of Vancouver







Archbishop Miller en route to March for Life in Victoria  
(Photo courtesy of Gail Arlin)



Catholic Street Missionaries' Sleep Out event



Family Eucharistic Summit



Life Restoration Ministries' Women's Retreat



World Youth Day 2023 pilgrims from Vancouver

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

ARCHBISHOP OF VANCOUVER

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Beginning in 2021, Pope Francis has set the Catholic Church on a synodal journey. He would like to see a Church in which the “journeying together” or synodality of the People of God is increasingly evident in its institutions, structures, and procedures.

The Archdiocese of Vancouver is actively taking part in this initiative and remains wholeheartedly committed to furthering the synodal process that has been experienced. A synodal Church recognizes the common dignity of all the baptized and calls the whole community to become more intentionally co-responsible for the Church’s evangelizing mission.

Being more intentional in welcoming others, regardless of “where they’re at” in their faith journey, into our lives and parishes is at the heart of becoming a synodal Church. Such radical welcoming is necessary for us to be credible missionary disciples.

Pastors are to listen attentively to the flock entrusted to their care and, in a spirit of communion, the lay faithful freely and honestly express their views on how best to serve the Lord. When trust is established, authentic dialogue and discernment can take place. In a synodal Church the entire people of God – clergy and laity alike – work together effectively for the proclamation of the Gospel.

The art and practice of “spiritual conversation” are key to synodality. This “synodal method” has already proven to be extraordinarily fruitful in the Archdiocese. Carried out in small groups, this way of dialogue attunes participants to the

presence of the Holy Spirit in discerning God’s will for the community. We ask: What steps is the Holy Spirit inviting our local Church to take in order to grow as a synodal Church?

Synodality, then, is a way of living in the Body of Christ, of “journeying together,” as we strive “to make disciples” of Jesus (Mt 28:19) in the contemporary world. Francis wants us to look for ways to bring Jesus to a world that doesn’t know him, his Church to people who are living in darkness.

It is my great hope that a synodal Church grounded in the Word of God, Sacred Tradition and the Magisterium will be equipped by God’s grace to deal with the painful wounds felt by the faithful and the serious pastoral challenges confronting us today.

To all of you who support the Church in Vancouver, I thank you for sharing your many gifts and charisms. You are in my daily prayers as together we continue the work of the Apostles by reaching out to the entire world – those who are already in our pews, those who may have left, and those still waiting to be invited and welcomed.

With the assurance of my blessing and prayers, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,



*+ J. Michael Miller CSB*

+ J. Michael Miller  
Archbishop of Vancouver



## Our story

The Archdiocese of Vancouver covers approximately 120,000 km<sup>2</sup>, including B.C.'s Lower Mainland, and has about 406,000 baptized Catholics within its boundaries. It was established in 1863 as the Vicariate Apostolic of British Columbia and in 1908 as the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Vancouver.

## 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
- Every parish will be offered services in management, development, and human resource functions



77  
parishes



405,761  
Catholics



52 schools and  
4 institutions of  
higher education



4,974  
catechists



194 priests  
98 diocesan  
96 religious



92 religious  
sisters



34 permanent  
deacons



33 religious  
brothers

2023



2,577  
Baptisms



2,403  
First Communions



2,374  
Confirmations



450  
Marriages



Archbishop Miller's Visit  
at St. Anthony of Padua  
(Photo courtesy of Garvan Yeung)

## A shepherd among his sheep

- 29 total visits completed since 2017
- 4 visits completed this year
- 6 visits scheduled for the upcoming year

Archbishop Miller resumed his formal pastoral visits to parishes in the fall of 2022. He celebrated a Sunday Mass with each parish community and sometimes a school Mass as well. The visits allowed the pastor, principal, parishioners, teachers, and ministries to share highlights and challenges in small group meetings and over meals with the Archbishop.

### THIS YEAR'S VISITS

#### St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Vancouver

Building on lessons learned from parishes across the country and a program called "Divine Renovation," Fr. Justin Huang and

his Senior Leadership Team explained how they are reimagining the more familiar model of representative Parish Pastoral Councils.

#### St. Jude's Parish, Vancouver

The parish showed how they enthusiastically embrace the ministry of Liturgy of the Word for Children to help form the young and show them the attractiveness of the faith.

#### St. Monica's Parish, Richmond

The parish youth ministry and Couples for Christ - Youth for Christ are forming a partnership to provide mutual support and growth.

#### St. Nicholas Parish, Langley

The Synod Action Committee is bringing the fruits of the Archdiocesan Synod and the technique of Spiritual Conversations into the practical experiences and decisions of the entire parish.





**Chrism Mass**  
(Photo courtesy of Angelo Siglos  
and Holy Rosary Cathedral)



**Fr. Patrick Le and Fr. Medard Kamanzi's  
Ordination to the Priesthood**  
(Photo courtesy of Angelo Siglos  
and Holy Rosary Cathedral)

## Nourishing the sacramental life of the Church



**194 total priests**

98 diocesan priests  
96 religious priests

### THE MINISTERIAL PRIESTHOOD

In their ministry to the local Church, our priests are finding creative ways to respond to Pope Francis's renewed emphasis on co-responsibility and unity as the People of God.

### PRIESTS FOR AN APOSTOLIC AGE CONFERENCE FOR PRIESTS AND DEACONS

Five priests, Fr. Augustine Obiwumma, Fr. Bruce-John Hamilton, Fr. Justin Huang, Fr. Lucio Choi, and Fr. Matthew To, attended a conference dedicated to equipping priests and deacons for apostolic leadership.

### PARISH ENHANCEMENT FUND

A new, dedicated fund is in place to provide financial support for innovative parish initiatives, renewal, missionary outreach and leadership development. To date, we have received 9 parish applications.

### CONTINUING EDUCATION

Fr. Juan Lucca and Fr. Francesco Voltaggio returned from post-graduate studies in Rome. Fr. Lucca serves as Pastor at St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Vancouver, and Fr. Voltaggio serves as Assistant Pastor at St. Andrew's Parish, Vancouver.

Fr. Guy Zidago and Fr. Richard Conlin began post-graduate studies in Rome for the Fall 2023 Semester.

Priest Study Day topics included:

- To Be Eucharistic Souls
- Priestly Identity in a Secular Age
- From Christendom to Apostolic Mission
- Responding to the Pastoral Challenges Facing the Church Today
- Safe Environment
- Synodality: The Holy Spirit and the Church(es)
- Catholic Teachings on MAiD
- Hispanic Ministry and the Local Church of Vancouver

## Discerning a priestly vocation



**13 seminarians**  
for the 2022-2023 academic year

**6 new seminarians**  
**16 men inquired about  
a priestly vocation**

Our men in seminary and those inquiring about entering are accompanied by a team of priests, Sisters, and lay faithful with diverse experience.

### NEWLY ORDAINED

Fr. Patrick Le and Fr. Medard Kamanzi were ordained to the Priesthood at Holy Rosary Cathedral on Saturday, July 1, 2023. Fr. Le now serves at St. Matthew's Parish, Surrey, and Fr. Kamanzi at St. Francis de Sales Parish, Burnaby.

### OTHER SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

For the 2021-2022 academic year, three schools provided flexibility in meeting the particular academic needs of each seminarian: St. Joseph Seminary, Edmonton; the Seminary of Christ the King, Mission; and, St. Mark's College for a post-graduate program in pastoral formation.

In a privileged historical moment, Vancouver seminarians joined others from across Canada in serving at the Papal Mass in Edmonton in July 2022 during Pope Francis's "penitential pilgrimage" for healing and reconciliation.

The *Redemptoris Mater* Seminary of the Archdiocese of Vancouver was successfully relocated to a newly renovated building for the seminarians who come to Vancouver through the Neocatechumenal Way.

### NEWLY APPOINTED

Fr. Paul Goo concluded his assignment as Vocations Director after 4 years. In recognition of the importance of vocations for the future of the Archdiocese, the Archbishop appointed four priests to the task of vocations outreach, formation, and support:

- Fr. James Hughes, Director of Vocations and Seminarians
- Fr. Mark McGuckin, Assistant Director of Vocations and Seminarians
- Fr. Juan Lucca, Vocations Team
- Fr. Raffaele Salvino, Vocations Team



# Fostering a culture of vocations



117 consecrated women  
100 religious men

Congregations of women and men religious have been part of the fabric of the Archdiocese since its founding. Communities serve in parishes, all levels of education, healthcare, pastoral care, social services, as well as providing retreat accommodations, talks, and more, always with a centering in their particular spirituality and life of prayer.

With gratitude for their decades of service, we said farewell to the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Sorrows, who have returned to Oregon from their mission at St. Paul's Parish, Richmond.

## FAREWELL SISTER MARY SABINA AND WELCOME SISTER MARY MARTHA!

Sister Mary Sabina DeMuth, OP, departed from Vancouver for her new assignment in the United States after serving for six years as the Archbishop's Delegate for Consecrated Life. Sister Mary Martha Hetzler, OP, assumed the role and provides support to religious congregations, consecrated virgins, and women and men discerning religious life.

## CONSECRATED LIFE

This year saw continued fruitfulness as several Vancouver men and women were received or advanced in vocations to consecrated life.

### *Women discerning religious communities*

- 5 professed first vows
- 3 professed perpetual vows

### *7 congregations received Vancouver vocations*

- Congregation of Saint Rose of Lima (Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne)
- Daughters of Mary, Help of Christians (Salesians)
- Daughters of Saint Paul
- Dominican Nuns, Queen of Peace Monastery in Squamish
- Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia (Nashville Dominicans)
- Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist
- Sisters of the Child Jesus

### *Men discerning religious communities*

- 1 entered Novitiate
- 1 professed First Vows
- 2 professed Solemn Profession
- 3 were ordained to the Priesthood



Fr. Frank Sharma, OCD  
(Photo courtesy of Lincoln Ho)

### *4 congregations received Vancouver vocations*

- Carmelite Friars of Canada
- Companions of the Cross
- Dominican Friars of the Western Province (U.S.)
- Oblates of St. Benedict, Westminster Abbey



Permanent Diaconate candidates in formation



34 incardinated deacons  
5 formation cohorts since 2011  
8 candidates in formation  
40 inquiries from men considering the vocation

## PERMANENT DIACONATE

Monsignor Gregory N. Smith concluded his role in directing the Permanent Diaconate Office for 11 years. He and Deacon Henk Luyten, a member of the first cohort and the new Director, gave priority to activities to promote the vocation to the permanent diaconate:

- Five information sessions for people interested in learning more about this relatively “new” vocation in the Archdiocese.
- Deacon Sunday – The Gospel of May 7, 2023, was from the Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 6, about the calling of the first deacons. Deacons and priests preached on the vocation to the permanent diaconate in every parish.

St. Mark's College is an important partner in the formation program. Their Pastoral Studies Program forms the core academic structure for the candidates and deacons.

## EXTENDING CHRIST'S SERVICE

Called to animate and support the Church's ministry with sincere faith, our deacons are actively involved in parish teams. These include Adult Faith Formation, Alpha, Courage Apostolate, RCIA, ministries to families, Indigenous, immigrants, prisoners, seniors, wayfarers, young adults, and youth.

Deacons of the Archdiocese have been appointed by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops as:

- National Director for Maritime Ministry in Canada – Deacon Dileep Athaide
- Canadian Council of Churches Commission on Justice and Peace – Deacon Richard Chau



# Strengthening marriages and families

We have reached a milestone in a multi-year plan to implement programs in support of marriage and family life in many dimensions, including marriage preparation, fertility awareness, the first years of marriage, marriage enrichment, raising children, physical suffering or mental health challenges, difficulties in marriage (e.g. separation and divorce) and bereavement support.

## WITNESS TO LOVE MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

- 21 parishes offering Witness to Love
- 123 couples participated
- 44 parish lay leaders trained as facilitators

## ALPHA MARRIAGE COURSE

- 4 parishes hosted
- 66 couples participated

Host parishes partner with the Archdiocese or incorporate the Marriage Course into their parish ministry offerings.

*It makes you see you're not the only couple trying to navigate through tough stuff. We're given practical tools that we can use right away that make such a difference.*

**The Marriage Course participant**

## FERTILITY HEALTH

- Vancouverfertility.org was launched in response to more couples looking for guidance in fertility health. With this new website, there has been a notable increase in calls about fertility awareness. At least four couples have contacted a practitioner through the website.
- A Creighton fertility practitioner has developed a presentation that introduces Grade 10 students to fertility health in a manner that is aligned with faith and reason.



## FAMILY EUCHARISTIC SUMMIT

- 92 families registered
- 38 parishes were represented
- 50 volunteers

We sponsored a one-day event for families to enter into the wonder and awe of the Most Blessed Sacrament. The program included Eucharistic Adoration and a Procession, Mass with the Archbishop, a hands-on experience of Host Making, a wine-making demonstration, a Eucharistic Miracles exhibit and a picnic dinner with the host parish.

## MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARY MASS

- 206 couples

Couples celebrating milestone Marriage Anniversaries (five-year increments from 5 to 60 years and every year beyond 60 years) were honoured on May 14, 2023, at St. Francis Xavier Parish. The church was overflowing with joy as we celebrated and bore witness to marriage and family.

## DIVORCED AND SEPARATED RETREATS

- 20 retreatants

We offered two retreats for Catholics who have gone through divorce or separation.



Family Eucharistic Summit



Marriage Anniversary Mass





## Continuing the synodal journey

### SYNOD ON SYNODALITY 2021-2024

In October 2021, Pope Francis invited us into a process that elicited a prayerful contribution from our local parishes, ministries and individual parishioners. Our Archdiocesan report became part of a truly remarkable global consultation. Our voices contributed to the development of

materials for the Synod of Bishops, which met this October 2023. As an elected representative of his brother bishops in Canada, Archbishop Miller served as Delegate to this Synod.

While many parishes continue to host listening circles to address the challenges raised through the Synod process, we are developing workshops for formation in synodal listening, called Spiritual Conversations, to help other parishes and parish leaders use the tool effectively in their parishes and local communities.

*It is certainly my hope that our Archdiocesan ministries, our parishes, and all organizations will take to heart what the synodal process has taught about how we should go about prayerfully discerning where the Holy Spirit wants to lead us in the coming decades that promise to be extraordinarily challenging for the Catholic Church in an increasingly post-Christian world.*

**ARCHBISHOP J. MICHAEL MILLER, CSB**



Young Adult Ministry faith study

## Equipping the laity

### CALLED BY NAME

The Rite of Election at Holy Rosary Cathedral celebrated:

- 332 catechumens (those to be baptized at Easter vigil)
- 99 candidates (those to be fully received into the Catholic Church)

### GROWING IN FAITH

New resources are continually emerging to assist parish ministry leaders and catechists. We have added the Franciscan at Home program by Franciscan University at Steubenville as a formation curricula to supplement resources like FORMED, which already provides parishioners with access to Catholic media and faith-based content.

- 37 participants received training on leading small groups using FORMED
- 21 parishes subscribed to FORMED for the first time
- 21 parishes adopted the Franciscan at Home training platform
- 7 RCIA groups attended a Mass and Salvation workshop based on the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
- 5 RCIA coordinator gatherings

Each year, we are encouraged by the witness of men and women who enter the Church and the hundreds of practicing Catholics who sponsor them on their journey.

*Leading the FORMED study Eternal Rest: The Art of Dying Well was not easy but it brought so much fruit for others and even for me. Death is a scary topic, but I left with a hopeful understanding and a deeper love for my faith and God.*

**CAROLINE FRANCIS**, Young Adult Coordinator,  
Immaculate Conception Parish, Delta





Searching in the Spirit

## Transforming hearts

### SPIRIT DAY - NOVEMBER 2022

Spirit Day Theme: Luke 20:38 “Now he is God not of the dead, but of the living for to him all of them are alive.”

Approximately 1,700 Grade 7 students converged at Chandos Pattison Auditorium from across the Archdiocese for our two day-long retreats known as Spirit Day 2022. They were accompanied by their catechists, parent chaperones, and more than 90 volunteers, including former attendees.

### ARISE YOUTH RETREAT

In July 2023, we hosted the Arise Youth Retreat for 26 newly Confirmed youth. The five-day overnight camp, formerly known as Homecoming, was smaller scale and more focused on evangelization and training. The training materials, Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO) Commission Faith Study, are also used to good effect in several Archdiocesan parishes for faith formation.

*I'm so happy that I attended the Arise Youth Retreat and I already know that I want to attend again next year. Everyone was so welcoming and super nice. Father Raffaele's homilies really spoke to me, and I could relate to what he was saying. I am grateful that I made so many new friends while learning about my faith.*

**ZACHARY**, youth participant



Upper Room Conference

## Awakening disciples to proclaim Jesus

### UPPER ROOM

- 472 participants
- 59 parishes represented

The Upper Room Conference was hosted in person again for the first time since its launch in October 2019. Participants gathered at the Sheraton Wall Centre to be inspired and equipped in mission and evangelization.

### ALPHA WEEKEND

Alpha is a program that uses food, fellowship and dynamic video content to provide people with an introduction to Christianity. It has been adopted by faith communities in many countries and in parishes throughout the Archdiocese.

To provide support and training for the parishes offering Alpha for the first time, Proclaim hosted

two Alpha Weekends for 150 participants from 8 different parishes. Through this experience, parish volunteers were able to learn how to lead the retreat by themselves in the future.

### DIVINE RENOVATION

Divine Renovation exists to inspire, connect, and equip parishes to go “from maintenance to mission.” This ministry has provided free coaching to support 12 priests and their teams in their work of evangelization and leadership development through the power of the Holy Spirit. Pastors and laypeople have also attended Divine Renovation’s events and accessed their resources.

### COMMUNITY TESTIMONIES

Inspiring Archdiocesan stories were shared through the Proclaim podcast and the #WeAreProclaim social media campaign. The podcast featured interviews with ministry experts while the #WeAreProclaim campaign, launched on Pentecost, shared powerful testimonies from Catholics in the Archdiocese.



# Making disciples of all nations

The vibrant diversity of the Church in Vancouver is reflected in ministries of specific ethnic groups.

## CHINESE MINISTRY

- 6 parishes with Mass in Cantonese or Mandarin

As Chinese immigrants seek to enter the Church or deepen their understanding of the faith, we provide parishes with RCIA training videos in Mandarin, an online RCIA glossary in Chinese, and Alpha facilitated in Mandarin and Cantonese. The joy of the faith was reflected by Mass celebrated for the occasions of the Chinese Cultural Tomb Festival and the Chinese New Year Mass and Carnival.

## HISPANIC MINISTRY

- 10 parishes with Mass in Spanish

Many Spanish-speaking countries celebrate patronal feasts as national holidays. The Hispanic Ministry emphasizes these feasts and other special occasions with special Masses and celebrations in parishes that serve immigrants from these countries.

We offer faith enrichment programs in Spanish and support immigrants to become ministry leaders in parishes and ecclesial movements. Ministry to marriages is also growing through programs like Worldwide Marriage Encounter, charismatic prayer groups, and Bodas de Cana, as couples seek the blessing of their marriage or support from other Spanish-speaking couples.

## FILIPINO MINISTRY

- 25 parishes celebrated the Simbang Gabi Christmas Novena

With gratitude for the leadership of Deacon Greg Barcelon, the Filipino Ministry welcomed Deacon Raul Abella as the new coordinator in September 2022. The intentions of our ministry are entrusted to the Matthew 7:7 Intercessory Prayer Brigade whose monthly prayers include the work of our 200 volunteers and seven established ministries. The *Mamuno Tulad ni Hesus* (Lead Like Jesus) leadership program also helped many disciples get involved in parish ministries. Civilly married couples seeking Sacramental Marriage participated in the Marriage Mass in June 2023.



Marriage Mass



Lunar New Year Celebration



Celebration of the Virgin of Guadalupe  
(Photo courtesy of Joaquín Esquivel)





The Cost of Silence filmmaker, Jeremy J.

## Indigenous Reconciliation Fund

In September 2021, the Archdiocese of Vancouver, in its journey of seeking reconciliation with Indigenous People, committed \$2.5 million over five years to Indigenous-led projects and programs that contribute to the objectives published by the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund (IRF). The fund is an arms-length, federally-incorporated not-for-profit registered charity established by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops with its own independent Board of Directors comprised of Indigenous and non-Indigenous members.

The fund supports projects that are determined locally in collaboration with First Nations, Métis and Inuit partners. The IRF has established the following priorities:

- Healing and reconciliation for communities and families;

- Culture and language revitalization;
- Education and community building; and,
- Dialogues for promoting Indigenous spirituality and culture.

Eight grants totaling \$406,326 have been awarded for the following local projects:

- *Amongst God's Own* - Book Republishing
- *The Cost of Silence* Film
- Cultural Programming at Dr. Peter Centre
- Healing Watchman Pole and Garden
- St. Mary's Residential School Historical Research
- St. Paul's Language and Culture Projects
- St'at'imc Declaration Gathering
- Syiyaya Healing Regalia

*When we erect the Healing Pole it will spread love instead of triggered feelings. Additionally, it will symbolize a new beginning of healing for our Sts'ailes people.*



40 Days for Life volunteers

## Nurturing a culture of life

Through monthly prayer vigils, the Archbishop's Mass, informative talks, and various pro-life campaigns and programs, we witness to a culture of life and pray for all life from conception to its natural end.

### 40 DAYS FOR LIFE

The annual campaign near BC Women's Hospital was an opportunity to witness and converse with people who saw our pro-life signs and the Catholic community praying in public for an end to abortion.

*Every child who is conceived in his or her mother's womb bears the image of God, an image that we pray is untarnished until the moment of natural death.*

ARCHBISHOP J. MICHAEL MILLER, CSB

### PRO-LIFE SUNDAY

- Over \$146K contributions to the 2022 second collection
- 16 pro-life grants amounting to \$127K+

Parishioners' support of the Pro-Life Second Collection helps fund various crisis pregnancy centres, organizations that counsel women post-abortion, the annual March for Life rally, and a 24-hour helpline for those who need help with end-of-life questions.

### RACHEL'S VINEYARD

This weekend retreat allows participants who have had an abortion to encounter the healing ministry of Jesus. The retreat provides a safe space where they can tell their story and be given an opportunity to name their baby, ask and accept the forgiveness of Jesus, and know that their child is with him in heaven. Seven women in the latest retreat experienced transformation and healing.



# A new generation



4950+ students in PREP

## TEACH THE CHILDREN WELL!

Catechists, parents, and pastors are noticing that the needs of children in PREP today are very different from those a generation ago. We are responding to their requests for help in the education of children who are surrounded by interesting technology and who experienced the many challenges of the pandemic. Programs like Liturgy of the Word for Children and Catechesis of the Good Shepherd remain very effective, and we continue to offer training. We have also begun an examination of how to engage busy parents and continue to form them in the faith alongside their children. We are also taking new approaches to meet the needs of today's children and the resources of parishes.

## VANSPEC

- 41 years of service
- 42 students in 2022-2023 catechetical year
- 45 volunteers in 2022-2023 catechetical year
- 10 new students and 18 new volunteers across all centres
- 11 sacraments celebrated
- 1 new centre opened at Canadian Martyrs, Richmond

We offer special needs children and young adults the opportunity to learn about the Catholic faith at their own pace, bringing them closer to Jesus.

Through presentations at different parishes and short talks after Mass, we actively reach out to families and students, making them aware of our commitment to journey with them in their sacramental preparation regardless of age or ability.

We encourage parishes to become a safe haven for families who have children with different abilities and to be a welcoming space for them as they receive the sacraments and become active participants in their parish communities.

### Vanspec Supporting Parents

Parents who bring their children to receive catechesis are inspired to actively reflect on their own spiritual life, reminding them that they are fulfilling their promise and responsibility to raise their children in the Catholic faith.

### Vanspec Supporting Volunteers and Teachers

Our catechist volunteers and staff are examples of living the faith by serving the most vulnerable with their open willingness.

In-person and online workshops on the topic of disabilities are conducted so new volunteers and staff learn more about the needs and challenges of our students and how to serve them better.

We also provide support for resource teachers and educational assistants in various Catholic schools.

Talks are in place to start an alumni program for students who have finished Vanspec and would like to continue working with Vanspec, sharing their faith with others, and creating a sense of community.

*Witnessing to the students' joy of learning, the excitement in their achievements, and their genuine expression of love for Jesus always inspires me and reawakens my soul to get in touch with my own fundamental relationship with Jesus. These students with their precious gifts as well as challenges are a gentle reminder and assurance that God surely dwells in their individual souls in such a profound and unique way. It is a privilege and blessing to be able to serve these children on their faith journey and formation.*

**Vanspec Assistant Teacher**



Vanspec alumni & volunteers with Archbishop Miller



Vanspec founder, Nina Pickburn, interviews for Vanspec's 40th anniversary in 2022 (Photo courtesy of Erico Duque)



# Our Catholic school community

## OUR 2022-2023 THEME: SEEKING TRUTH, HEALING AND RECONCILIATION

- 879 Teachers
- 568 Education Assistants
- 16,340 students enrolled  
(including affiliated schools)
- 81.6% are Catholic students

At the end of the 2022-2023 school year there were some memorable highlights for schools throughout the Catholic Independent Schools of Vancouver Archdiocese.

**FAREWELL TO DEACON HENK**  
Schools wished Deacon Henk Luyten farewell as he transitioned from his role as Superintendent of Catholic schools in the Vancouver Archdiocese. His unwavering dedication, tireless work, and strong faith inspired all who knew him.

**LEARNING TOGETHER**  
As part of a commitment to our understanding of Indigenous culture, St. Helen’s Elementary

in Burnaby visited longhouses, learned from elders, and participated in a salmon release program. More recently, the school was part of a Tribal Vision Dance performance. Students left the inspiring presentation with a deeper understanding of Indigenous tradition. Staff of Blessed Sacrament Elementary gathered monthly through the school year to learn about Indigenous people, and staff of Little Flower Academy in Vancouver experienced the culture, tradition, and history of the Tsleil-Waututh First Nation by canoeing with Takaya Tours, owned and operated by the Tsleil-Waututh Nation.

In November 2022, Clive Heah, principal of Cloverdale Catholic School, hosted an interview with Father Cristino Bouvette, who was national liturgical director for the 2022 papal visit. Father Bouvette spoke about his role as a Catholic priest and person and how those worlds come together, and shared with the youth that we must all have the same understanding of reconciliation so we can all strive for the same goals.

## CONNECTING AS A COMMUNITY WITH NATURE

Our Lady of Fatima students in Coquitlam visited with a Salish elder at the Hiwus Feasthouse (longhouse) in North Vancouver to listen, learn, and share in the work of truth, healing, and reconciliation.

In March 2023, the St. Thomas More Secondary community participated in a Brushing Off and Blanketing Ceremony, welcoming several elders and guests as part of what was an important event and key moment in the school’s reconciliation journey. The school community expressed its appreciation for everyone who participated in the ceremony, especially Coast Salish/Squamish artist

Ray Natraoro and Tasha Faye Evans, a Coast Salish dance and theatre artist.

## SEEKING TRUTH, HEALING, AND RECONCILIATION

The Grade 2 class of Corpus Christi Elementary in Vancouver held a salmon fry release in May at Beaver Lake in Stanley Park, where they were able to reflect and reconnect with the beauty of nature. Our Lady of Good Counsel Elementary in Surrey commissioned Indigenous carver Randy Ivey to create a land acknowledgment based on the CISVA theme logo, which, in turn, was created by Coast Salish artist and culture language teacher Stuart Pagaduan. OLGC school participates in land acknowledgments before school-wide morning prayer and assemblies.



Little Flower Academy staff members canoeing with Takaya Tours



St. Helen’s Elementary students learning from First Nations elders



# Doing God’s work

## ECUMENISM AND INTERFAITH RELATIONS

The death of Pope Benedict XVI on December 31, 2022, was an exceptional moment in the life of the Church and in the work of Ecumenism and Interfaith Relations because of the efforts made by the Pope and his contemporaries to open or continue dialogue between people of faith. In honor of his death, about 30 religious leaders from other faith traditions in Vancouver joined us for a Memorial Mass celebrated by Archbishop Miller at Holy Rosary Cathedral. Other efforts toward greater understanding and dialogue attracted the participation of many Catholics.

- Several parishes held joint prayer services with Anglican and Lutheran communities
- 10 parishes hosted an ecumenical prayer service during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

- 40 parish volunteers received training on hosting ecumenical and interfaith events at a parish
- 170 people participated in a joint community meal with the Jewish community

## ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING COMMITTEE

- 100+ attended training

The members of the Anti-Human Trafficking Committee find that education opens the minds and hearts of people who would otherwise have no understanding of how the dignity of the human person is consistently under siege in Canada. Educational tools and training were made available for parishes and parish groups using the *Working Towards Freedom Study Guide* based on the CCCB Pastoral Letter *For Freedom Christ Has Set Us Free*.



Memorial Mass for Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

# Communicating the Gospel

## ONLINE PRESENCE

- 247,858 page views on rcav.org
- 35,813 followers across 20 channels on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube
- 57% average open rate of the weekly newsletter

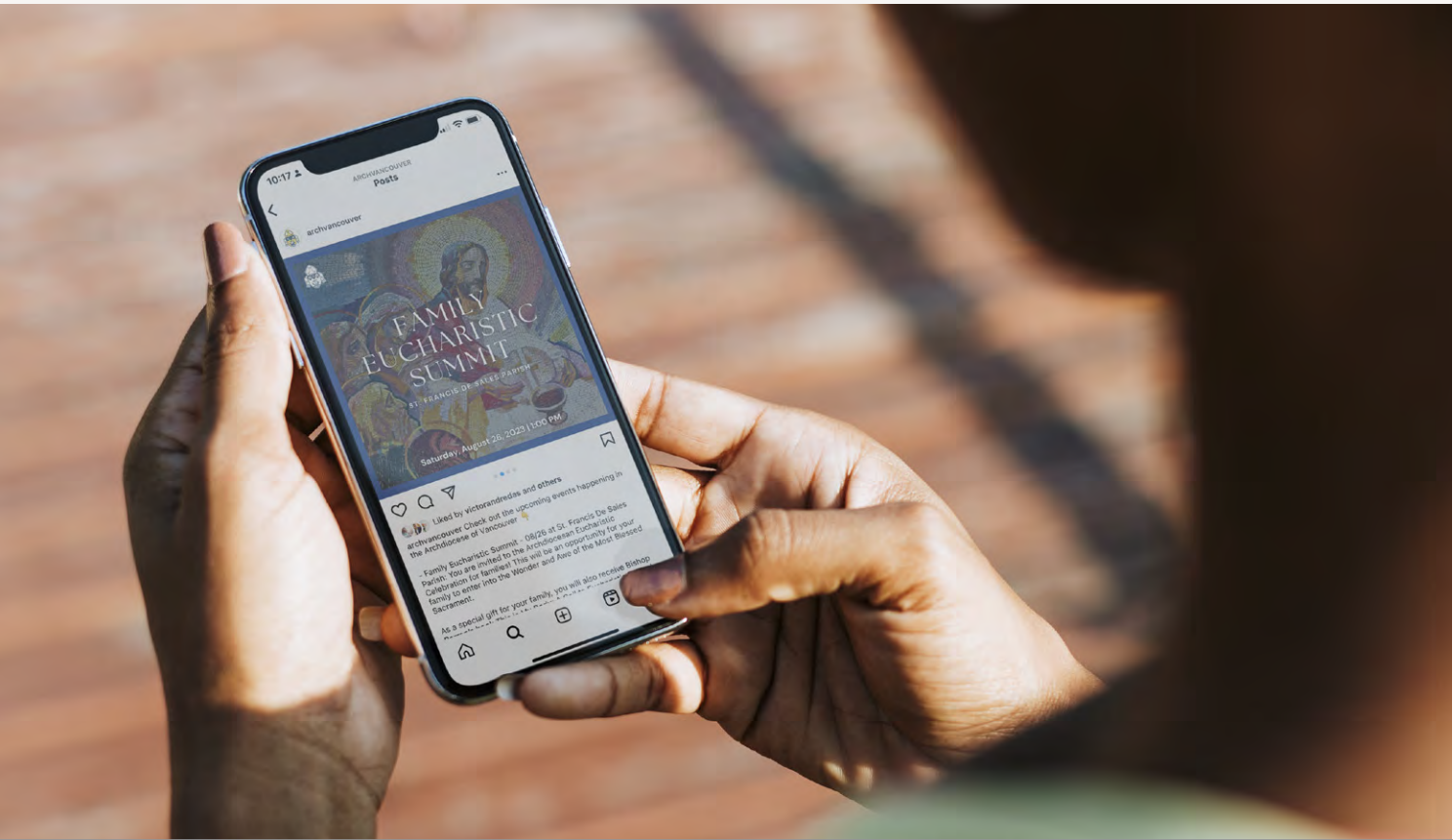
## THE B.C. CATHOLIC NEWSPAPER

- 16,119 print subscribers
- 1,656 digital subscribers

## AWARDS

News coverage of euthanasia, pandemic restrictions, and Indigenous issues helped earn The B.C. Catholic 13 newspaper awards from the Catholic Media Association in the following categories:

- Diocesan Annual Report
- Layout of Article or Column
- Regular Column – Family Life and Culture, Arts and Leisure
- Coverage of Political Issues
- Coverage of Religious Liberty Issues
- Editorial on a National or International Issue
- Headline
- In-Depth News/Special Reporting
- Investigative News Writing
- News Writing on Regional Event





# Bringing hope and healing to the most vulnerable

## PRISON MINISTRY

- 80 volunteers at 14 institutions
- 250 men and women receive ministry monthly

Prison Ministry is blessed to have a great relationship with parishes. When they open themselves to prison ministry the blessings are astounding. St. Mary's in Chilliwack collected items for Christmas bags, while Holy Cross Parish in Burnaby gathered Christmas cards and calendars. The St. Ann's CWL in Abbotsford cooked a traditional Christmas dinner for inmates. Volunteers' hospitality to the unchurched was a beautiful reminder of the undeserving love and care we receive from God that we are asked to imitate with our brothers and sisters.

We have also seen a huge impact among inmates. A weekly program, Catholic Connections, is held at one prison, and through our various faith study programs, many men who are not Catholic come searching for what is missing in their life:

Jesus. One man who desired to be baptized as a Catholic was brought into the Church at Easter after a year and half of studying the faith and despite health limitations. Seeing the child-like beauty with which he celebrated his faith was a great witness to the chaplain, volunteers, and inmates who journeyed alongside him.

Dear Little Prayer warriors,

Thank you for your beautiful gifts of love for Christmas. As a man of God, I spend my days here sharing Jesus with as many people as I can. My cup ran low, especially during the holiday when I needed Jesus' love and grace. The card I received from you with the simple message that I am loved has filled my cup and renewed my passion for sharing the news of salvation. Thank you, a friend in Christ.

- from an inmate who received a student's Christmas card



Farewell to Fr. Jiji  
(Mountain Institution Chaplain)

## MEN'S SHELTER

Shelter services were provided to 37,624 men experiencing homelessness in 2022.

At an in-house team-building workshop, the importance of Mission, Vision, and Values was discussed, and foundational values were identified to serve as cornerstones that will guide our interactions, decision-making, and operations.

The Shelter fosters the support of newcomers and the unchurched daily by serving homeless men in the community and offers opportunities for parishes to provide meals, clothing, and support through volunteering. The hope is to expand such presence within parishes.



We had a recent guest in the Recuperative Care floor of the Shelter who developed a relationship with Jesus due to our ministry and practices of staff. He would often come to the office to ask staff to say a short prayer with him in the morning. It was beautiful to see his relationship with Jesus develop during his time with us.

SHARON DELALLA  
Manager





### THE DOOR IS OPEN

- 104,025 meals served in 2022-2023
- 36,400 snacks provided
- 3,900 clothing packages provided
- 1,300 food packages provided

*I talked to the clients today, and they expressed their needs, not just for food but to belong to a community where they could tell and exchange stories and be with people to laugh with. Based on our experience, the Downtown East Side is a very close-knit, loving, supportive community. We saw this in this community: the outpouring of love and support and the deep sense of grief they feel when someone in the community dies.*

**SISTER CHITA TORRES**  
Carmelite Sister

### SERVICE AND JUSTICE

#### Volunteer Program

One of the most vital initiatives of the Service and Justice Office is its parish volunteer program. The program allows Catholics to be more active in their faith by becoming more involved in the corporal and spiritual works of mercy in their parish. The program creates a pool of “non-affiliated” volunteers to be deployed in parish and other Catholic ministries. The result is up to 400 volunteers who can help Knights of Columbus, the CWL, and others.

*All four parishes we have done this for are very excited with the results and are thankful to the Archdiocese for the support they have been given for this project.*

**BOB BUCKHAM,**  
Service & Justice Coordinator

#### Refugee Program

Catholic parishes have been among the first places new immigrants come to find community upon arriving in Canada. Many parish refugee volunteers are immigrants or refugees themselves and want to help others, just as others helped them.

- 22 parishes participate in the refugee program
- 72 people with applications pending submission
- 104 people awaiting processing overseas
- 12 people approved awaiting completion
- 7 people successfully completed sponsorship settlement

The refugees we serve have inspiring stories of courage, resilience, determination, and tenacity. Despite what they have undergone – torture, imprisonment, human trafficking, loss of home, loss of loved ones – they do not lose hope, persevering through their trust in God.

*Without support, I would be in the middle of the desert, nowhere to go, just frozen.*

**Refugee from Eritrea**



The Door Is Open



Eritrean community





# Preparing for eternal life

Catholic Cemeteries operates Gardens of Gethsemani Cemetery and St. Peter’s Cemetery. Its mission is to prepare the living for the afterlife, uphold Catholic burial traditions, and offer compassionate care to the bereaved.

In the past year, Catholic Cemeteries:

- Assisted more than 1,000 families in preparing memorial plans
- Helped more than 600 families with immediate burial needs
- Conducted workshops on end-of-life planning and estate management
- Provided financial assistance for those unable to afford burial arrangements
- Developed a supportive prayerbook on the Stations of the Resurrection
- Encouraged meaningful end-of-life conversations through Talk of a Lifetime program

*As Catholics we look forward to resurrection, and our Catholic Cemeteries are a visible sign of this hope. To be buried in sacred ground in the company of generations of believers has been a tradition of the Christian faith over the millennia.*

**ARCHBISHOP J. MICHAEL MILLER, CSB**

*A Catholic cemetery is a bridge between the Church on earth and the Church in heaven. We are encouraged to view a Catholic cemetery as a symbol of hope. In hope, we desire eternal life and the graces to merit it.*

**PETER NOBES,**  
*Director of Catholic Cemeteries*

# Pastoral Care

Pope Francis has challenged the Church to minister to people who are experiencing profound loneliness and isolation. We have responded by helping implement bereavement support in parishes across the Archdiocese.

- 2 sessions of the eight-week Spiritual Care Program, which trains parishioners to serve those in the community who are lonely, unwell, and unable to attend Mass

## TESTIMONIALS FROM PARTICIPANTS

*“The program was very thorough in covering all the skills and knowledge that would be needed in working with seniors. What I hadn’t expected was how valuable the episodes would be to me personally. They increased my understanding in navigating my own aging process, in dealing with dementia of a family member, and in my journey after losing a spouse.”*

*“I feel forever transformed in my understanding of people, aging, and how essential good spiritual care is during this journey. What a privilege to be so well prepared to be present for our elders, supporting them to age well with dignity, love, and respect.”*

*“It’s a very comprehensive program with a wealth of information, lots of detail, with opportunity to review and test oneself. The emphasis is on spiritual well-being and the experts we hear from are the best! I appreciate the opportunity to meet one another online and to participate in discussion.”*







The Eleventh Annual Archbishop's Dinner

# Advancing the mission

## MY SUNDAY OFFERING

The My Sunday Offering donation page facilitated online parish offerings for 4,972 parishioners, with more than 3,942 weekly or monthly gifts and an additional 1,030 donors making periodic single donations. These offerings raised \$4.3 million for parishes in our Archdiocese.

## ARCHBISHOP'S PRIORITIES

Archbishop Miller was able to advance his pastoral priorities in part through the Eleventh Annual Archbishop's Dinner in October 2022, which was attended by 823 people and raised \$674,875 toward Catholic Charities and Refugee Sponsorship in the Archdiocese.

## OVERALL GIVING

In the last year, 135,366 gifts from more than 10,817 donors were received and more than \$14.8 million in donations were processed. Estate gifts provided nearly \$1.3 million for parish priorities and various ministries of the Archdiocese. The gifting of publicly traded securities remains popular, with 143 gifts totalling more than \$1.1 million.

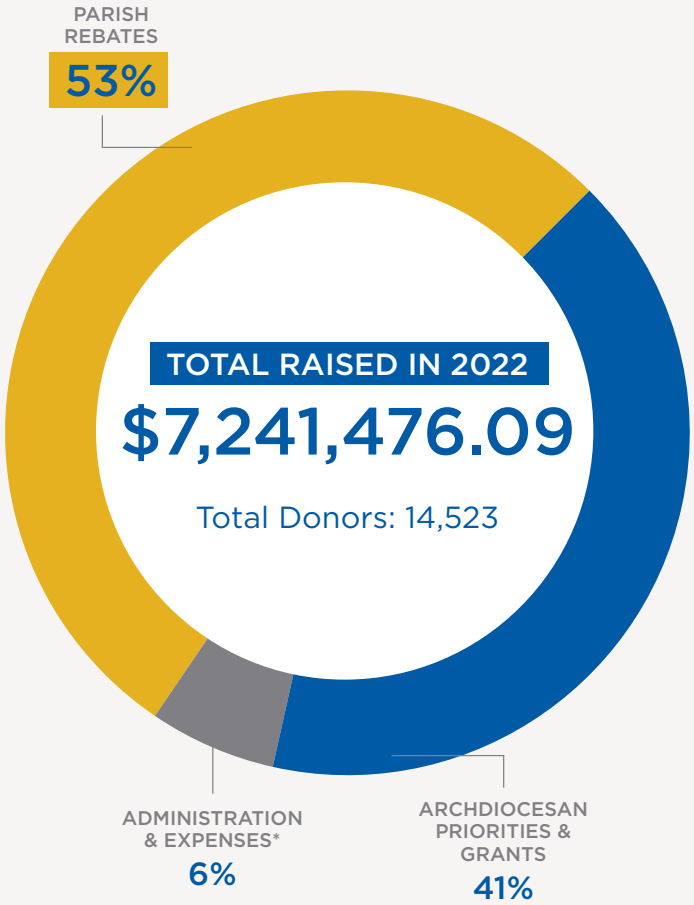
ARCHDIOCESAN PRIORITIES & GRANTS	\$3,000,000
Secondary School Construction Fund	\$1,750,000
Chaplaincy	\$200,000
Special Grants	\$200,000
Evangelization Programs	\$150,000
Social Justice	\$150,000
Youth and Young Adult Ministry	\$150,000
Family Life Programs	\$100,000
Prison Ministry	\$100,000
St. Joseph's Residence	\$100,000
Cultural Ministry	\$50,000
First Nations Ministry	\$50,000

## 2022 SPECIAL GRANT RECIPIENTS

The areas of addiction recovery, domestic abuse, homelessness and food security, mental health, and spiritual support were identified as key areas of need to provide relief and support. Grants were awarded to:

- Catholic Street Missionaries
- Columbus Homes
- Domestic Abuse Services
- L'Arche Vancouver
- Life Restoration
- NET Canada
- Sancta Maria House
- St. Paul's Foundation
- Talitha Koum
- Catholic Christian Outreach
- CoSA
- Sanctuary Mental Health
- Signal Hill
- CHARM

Learn more about funding recipients at [support.rcav.org/pa2022](https://support.rcav.org/pa2022)



PARISH REBATES \$3,812,064.62

The amount that is raised above each parish's goal is rebated back to the parish for a priority project or need. This year the projects ranged from covering the salary of a new parish coordinator for evangelization, to structural renovations, to covering the deficit that was caused by offertory decreases.

ADMINISTRATION & EXPENSES \$401,826.02

PROJECT ADVANCE 2022

Gather Us, Lord

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





Groundbreaking Ceremony for Holy Cross Regional Secondary  
(Photo courtesy of Holy Cross Regional Secondary)



# Renewing and building our infrastructure

Every capital project is underpinned by the desire to improve the missional and pedagogical goals of parish communities, with measurable ways of achieving them. Recent projects include:

- Archdiocesan Missionary Seminary *Redemptoris Mater* – renovation
- Archdiocesan-wide Facility Condition Assessment Project
- Holy Cross Regional Secondary School - construction groundbreaking
- Holy Spirit Parish, New Westminster – rectory renovation
- Notre Dame Regional Secondary, Vancouver – school field
- Our Lady of Good Counsel Elementary, Surrey – partial renovation
- Our Lady of Perpetual Help Elementary, Vancouver – school renovation
- St. Andrew Elementary, Vancouver – renovation
- St. Bernadette Elementary, Surrey – renovation
- St. John Brebeuf Regional Secondary, Abbotsford – school addition
- St. John Paul II Academy - construction groundbreaking
- Sts. Cyril & Methodius, New Westminster – parish renovation
- Sts. Joachim and Ann Parish, Aldergrove – renovations



St. John Paul II Academy groundbreaking

# Selected Financial Results for Pastoral Centre and Parishes of the Archdiocese of Vancouver

Year ended December 31, 2022

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

	2022	2021	2020
<strong>REVENUES</strong>			
Ordinary Collections, Building Fund and Special Offerings	\$41,365,998	\$36,632,745	\$34,245,032
Parish Programming and Fundraising	\$8,662,508	\$9,340,768	\$6,509,309
Project Advance Annual Appeal	\$7,241,476	\$7,317,181	\$6,757,759
National and Diocesan Collections	\$2,073,382	\$1,687,677	\$1,134,631
<strong>EXPENSES</strong>			
Parish Operations	\$38,187,649	\$32,081,881	\$31,008,203
Parish Capital Expenses	\$6,293,249	\$16,538,239	\$16,387,299
Archdiocesan Operations	\$8,753,063	\$6,449,817	\$6,663,282



The Archdiocese of Vancouver acknowledges that the land on which we gather and work is the unceded territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlíl̓wətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

Thank you to the offices of the John Paul II Pastoral Centre, our many photographers, including Nicholas Elbers and Miso Media, for their contributions to this report.

Coordinated and created by the Communications Office



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