



2023/2024 ANNUAL REPORT



Archdiocese
of Vancouver

BUILDING OUR PARISHES





A Message from the Most Reverend

J. Michael Miller, CSB



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Recent discussions and reflections have introduced us to a new way of discerning the Lord's will for his Church, "Conversation in the Spirit," which embodies the co-responsibility of both lay faithful and clergy. This approach, encouraging attentive and prayerful listening, mirrors the synodal method used in the recent Synod of Bishops. It is a concrete expression of "walking together" and signifies a shift towards a more collaborative and welcoming Church.

As Catholics navigate a "new apostolic age," our parish families are called to adapt how we proclaim the Gospel. The traditional methods that once bore abundant fruit are no longer as effective as they once were. Instead, we must draw inspiration from the early Apostles who, despite their fears and limitations, trusted wholly in Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. Our strength lies in this trust, enabling us to embrace even radical pastoral changes in our homes, parishes, schools, and ministries.

Before we can implement any changes, however, every parishioner must first undergo a deeper conversion of mind and heart. As St. Francis of Assisi reminded us, our greatness lies in a simple, radical return to the Gospel lived and preached by Jesus. This renewed focus on Christ-centered holiness is essential for a fruitful mission. Pope St. John Paul II's call for a "new evangelization"—fresh in ardour, methods, and expression—must guide our path forward.

Pope Francis uses the Greek word *parrhesia* to describe the courageous attitude we need, one which played so prominent a role in the Church's earliest proclamation of the Gospel. The Holy Spirit transforms ordinary people into Spirit-filled evangelizers, empowering us to fulfill our mission despite the challenges we face. This assurance emboldens us to face the dark nights of problems and suffering, trusting that the Lord will guide our parish communities through unexpected doors of opportunity.

Although I may not witness the full fruit of the transformation on which we are embarking, I am committed to lighting the fuse that will propel our parishes into a new apostolic mode of living out the Great Commission. Together, let us embrace this call with faith and courage, confident in the Lord's abiding presence and the transformative power of the Holy Spirit.

With the assurance of my blessing and prayers, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

J. Michael Miller CSB

Archbishop of Vancouver

Our story

The Archdiocese of Vancouver covers approximately 120,000 km², including B.C.'s Lower Mainland, and has about 395,000 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



395,559 Catholics



52 schools & 4 institutions of higher education



3,382 catechists



201 priests
103 diocesan and 98 religious



108 consecrated women



19 religious brothers



40 permanent deacons



2,778 Baptisms



2,711 First Communions



2,512 Confirmations



457 Marriages



6 Ordinations (Diaconal)



3,461 Anointings of the Sick

Data as of September 2024



THIS YEAR'S VISITS

Blessed Sacrament Parish, Vancouver

Preserving the French-speaking tradition of the area, the parish also is the home of a relatively new movement in the Church, the Neocatechumenal Way.

Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Vancouver

A cross-section of many cultures and languages, the parish celebrates liturgies in three languages and is a centre for the Spanish-speaking community of the Lower Mainland. After 34 years of ministry in the Archdiocese, the Teresian Carmelite Missionaries bade farewell to those they had served.

St. Clare of Assisi Parish, Coquitlam

With a friendly, deliberate, and attentive process of welcoming new parishioners, the parish sees high levels of engagement and participation in every area of parish life.

St. Paul's Parish, Richmond

The Catholic identity of the school is strongly evident, as is a well-developed inter-grade collaboration. The parish welcomed the Augustinian Sisters of Our Lady of Consolation this year.

St. Stephen's Parish, Vancouver

Parishioners are noted for their willingness to collaborate and exercise their gifts in every area of parish life.

St. Mary's Parish, Chilliwack

A growing and very engaged parish and school community which also serves nearby Indigenous communities and is living the spiritual and corporal works of mercy in Chilliwack and surrounding regions in a highly visible way.

Equipping Parishes for the Moment

During his formal pastoral visits this year, Archbishop Miller celebrated successes and encouraged collaboration between parishes, especially the meaningful sharing of ideas and resources. After hearing from people of each parish about the life and activity within their communities, the Archbishop explained how the gifts of each parish could be shared to enliven the present and future of our local Church.

ARCHBISHOP MILLER'S PARISH VISITS

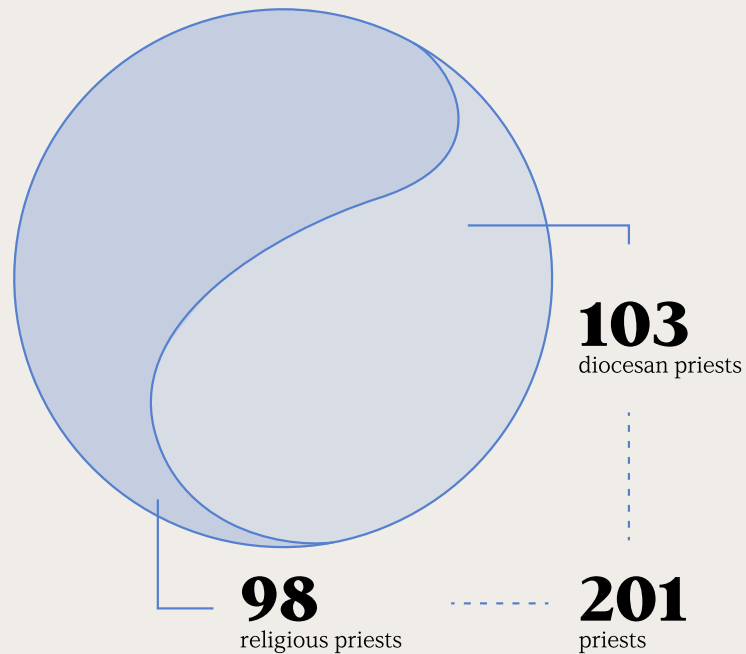
6 visits completed this year

35 visits since 2017



Nourishing the *Sacramental Life* of the Church

OUR CLERGY



OUR SEMINARIANS

- 5** new seminarians in 2023-2024
- 4** new seminarians for September 2024
- 14** current seminarians in formation, including the Spirituality Year, Arts program and Theology

Discerning a Priestly Vocation

A TEAM APPROACH

The Vocations and Seminarians Office moved from a full-time director to a team approach with four priests serving part-time in vocations ministry, while working in their respective parish assignments as pastors or assistant pastors:

Father James Hughes (Director of Vocations and Seminarians) leads the Vocations and Seminarians Office administration.

Father Mark McGuckin (Assistant Director of Vocations and Seminarians) leads the monthly Discerners' group.

Father Juan Lucca and Father Raffaele Salvino (Vocations Team) plant the seeds of vocations through outreach to schools, colleges, young adult ministry, youth ministry, and other organizations.

INCREASING WEB PRESENCE

To bring more awareness to discerning the priesthood and consecrated life in our Archdiocese, the office is currently working on launching a new Vocations Vancouver website and increasing its presence on social media.





Promoting Vocations

VOCATIONAL OUTREACH

A key focus this year was finding new ways to reach out to young adults. Various events provided opportunities for experiencing the joy of the consecrated life. Such opportunities included visiting local university campuses, hosting book studies for young adults, hosting an overnight retreat for young adult women, and attending CCO's Rise Up conference in Ottawa.

To reach out to young women, a Mother-Daughter-Sister Tea hosted over 160 mothers and their daughters. Five religious communities were represented so that young women and girls could see the joy of religious life and learn more about it.

The Fiat women's discernment group has accompanied 5 young women who are in the process of entering religious communities in 2024.

CONSECRATED MEN & WOMEN

 **92** consecrated women

16 Daughters of the Church 

 **30** religious brothers

Congregations of women and men religious continue to serve the Archdiocese in parishes, education, health care, pastoral care, and social services. They also are present at many events and retreats around the Archdiocese where they witness to their vocation.

The Archdiocese thanks the Congregation of Teresian Carmelite Missionaries for their service as they leave their mission at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in Vancouver and to the temporary migrant workers in the Fraser Valley.

Permanent Diaconate

This year, Deacon Henk Luyten took over as the Director of the Permanent Diaconate Office and Program, succeeding Monsignor Gregory Smith, the founding Director, who continues to serve as the Vicar General.

40 permanent deacons

6 ordained in 2024

9 candidates in formation

14 men who have inquired about participating in a future cohort

SIX NEW DEACONS FOR THE ARCHDIOCESE OF VANCOUVER

On June 1, 2024, Archbishop Miller ordained six new deacons for the Archdiocese of Vancouver. They will serve in several parishes and Archdiocesan ministries, including ministry to men, physicians, performing artists, and the handicapped and disabled.

EXTENDING CHRIST'S SERVICE

At the parish level, permanent deacons are part of parish teams involved in Alpha, RCIA, marriage and baptismal preparation, and many other activities. They also serve various ethnic communities including Chinese, Eritrean, Filipino, Goan, Hispanic, and Sri Lankan Catholics. Deacons also inspire and support parish growth through their involvement on parish leadership teams.

Some permanent deacons, while they may assist at their home parish, are assigned to specific ministries such as prison ministry, Gardens of Gethsemani, hospital and senior home care, men's ministry, ecumenical outreach, port chaplaincy, Courage and Encourage, liturgical ministry for staff and passengers at Vancouver International Airport, service to the Permanent Diaconate Office, and others.

Synod on Synodality

The 2021-2024 Synod continues to shape the Archdiocese as an increasing number of priests, deacons, consecrated women and men, and lay faithful become engaged in the synodal process. Conversation in the Spirit workshops are taking place in many parishes and schools.

An all-day gathering of nearly 150 priests and lay leaders from more than half of our 77 parishes met on March 16, 2024. In their evaluations of the event, the participants overwhelmingly expressed their desire to continue using the synodal process and Conversation in the Spirit to discern their role in fostering the Church's mission of evangelization.

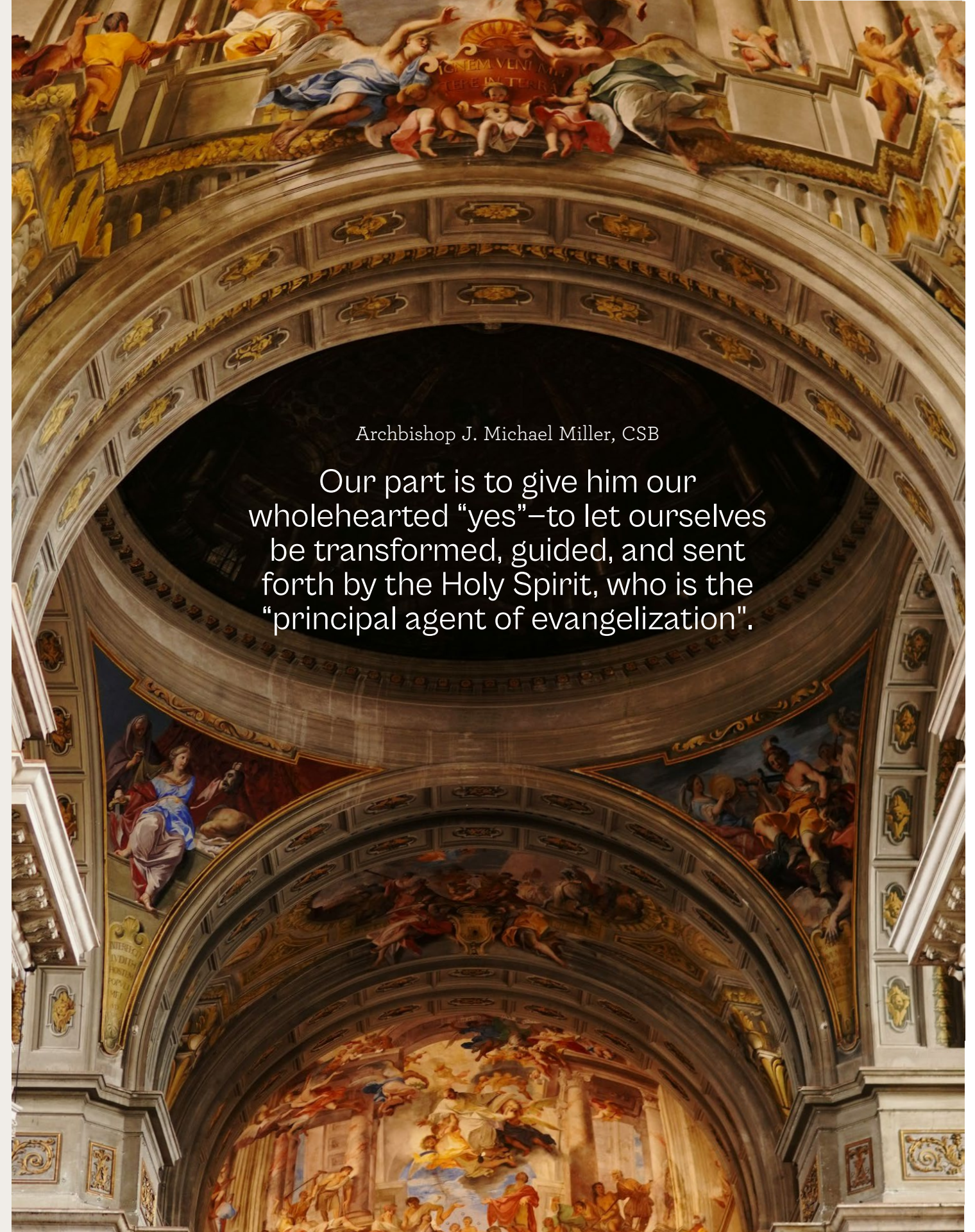
In May 2024, Father Pierre Ducharme, OFM, pastor of St. Joseph the Worker in Richmond, represented Canada in the Parish Priests for the Synod meeting in Rome. He returned to act as a missionary for synodality among his brother priests.

Archbishop Miller returned to Rome as a delegate from Canada for the second session of the Synod on Synodality in October 2024 after representing Canada's English-speaking bishops at the Synod in October 2023.

Archdiocesan staff are now providing training workshops to foster the use of Conversation in the Spirit in parishes to form leaders and those involved in various ministries in the practice of active listening. The goal is for people to become more familiar with the synodal process and Conversation in the Spirit when making decisions. In this way, they will be more prepared to implement the changes necessary to put in place the "missionary option" called for by Pope Francis in *Evangelii Gaudium*.

Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB

Our part is to give him our wholehearted "yes"—to let ourselves be transformed, guided, and sent forth by the Holy Spirit, who is the "principal agent of evangelization".





Marriage & Family

“As mentors, we were surprised that we also had a lot to learn from the young couples. We saw the freshness of their love and devotion which helped rekindle the romance in our more mature marriage.”

Witness to Love Mentor Couple

MARRIAGE FORMATION

520+ couples participated in marriage formation

100 mentor couples involved in Witness to Love mentorship program accompanying couples preparing for marriage in the Church

94 couples participated in Alpha Marriage Courses hosted at six parishes

27 couples are trained as facilitators active in marriage formation

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT

145 couples benefitted from marriage enrichment opportunities including Date Nights, Weekend Getaway, and Together for Good workshops

32 couples participated in Together for Good, a one-day marriage enrichment course in partnership with Family Life Canada

19 couples participated in Weekend Getaways (Winter and Fall) in partnership with Family Life Canada

YOUTH FERTILITY AWARENESS

Youth Fertility Awareness presentations were given at six high schools. Topics included male and female anatomy, menstrual cycles, conception and how to track the ovulation cycle, factors in fertility health, and practical information on how to protect fertility and overall health.

A COMPASSIONATE APPROACH TO INFERTILITY

Two webinars were hosted in Spring 2024 featuring presentations from two medical doctors and testimonies from two couples.

SUPPORTING CATHOLIC SINGLE MOTHERS

For the first time, the Archdiocese partnered with Momentum, a faith community for Catholic single mothers, on a luncheon and a retreat for mothers and their children.

12 mothers and their children attended the Momentum luncheon (February 2024)

17 mothers and 15 children attended the Momentum Retreat (May 2024)

FAMILY CAMP

Inspired by Pope Francis at the 9th World Meeting of Families, the Archdiocese hosted its first Family Camp in August 2024. This event brought together families from all over the Archdiocese for a weekend filled with fun and opportunities for spiritual growth.

42 families in attendance

Youth Ministry

47 parishes have intentional youth ministry

2023

SPIRIT DAY

THEME: ANOINTED

1,730 Grade 7 students from across the Archdiocese participated in this one-day youth rally at Chandos Pattison Auditorium. It was offered twice to serve as many students as possible. The connection between Baptism and Confirmation was emphasized: our anointing in these sacraments gives us the strength to go out and be active members of the Church.

2024

CATHOLIC YOUTH CONFERENCE

THEME: MEANT FOR MORE

The Catholic Youth Conference welcomed approximately 100 high school-aged youth. This youth rally was a full-day event with keynote talks, breakout sessions, and time for prayer and fellowship. This year's theme, "Meant for More," focused on how young people should see themselves not simply in the role that others assign them, but as persons who are called and ultimately destined to live in the fullness of God himself.

ARISE

This five-day overnight camp welcomed 31 youth in Grades 8 and 9 focused on equipping them with training and tools for evangelization.



Lay Formation

CALLED BY NAME

Celebrating the Rite of Election at Holy Rosary Cathedral:

396 catechumens
(those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil)

60 candidates
(those to be fully received into the Catholic Church)

34 parishes celebrated Confirmation for adult baptized Catholics at Pentecost

EQUIPPING LEADERS

A key focus for lay formation is supporting parish leaders. The past year provided opportunities for young adult leaders to connect and support leadership development at the parish level through different training possibilities and events.

4 parish leadership summits were hosted

5 new RCIA coordinators were welcomed and trained

25 RCIA coordinators met for five sessions of online training for hosting a parish retreat using FORMED digital content

EQUIPPING YOUNG ADULT LEADERS

23 young adult leaders participated in a seminar to better equip them for accompanying others in their faith

21 participants took part at a retreat for young adult ministry core teams



Proclaim

UPPER ROOM

The 2023 Upper Room Conference focused on parish leadership, helping participants see their evangelizing mission. As a result, several parishes started leadership teams, Alpha, and other evangelizing initiatives such as accompaniment masterclasses or leadership summits.

383 participants **45** parishes represented

ALPHA RETREATS

Many parishes continue to use Alpha as a way of bringing their communities together through food, fellowship, and dynamic video content to provide people with an introduction to Christianity.

This past year, Proclaim hosted three separate Alpha retreats for 270 participants. This provided an opportunity for multiple parishes to connect, learn from each other and share resources.

THE RESCUE PROJECT

The Rescue Project is an eight-week program that inspires Catholics to proclaim the Gospel in a compelling way through storytelling and personal testimony.

Father John Riccardo and the ACTS XXIX team hosted the first-ever Rescue LIVE Conference in Vancouver in May 2024, where the Gospel was presented in a new and enlivening way. In addition, a separate retreat called "Mission Equipped" was hosted by the ACTS XXIX team specifically for ministry leaders.

860 participants from **37** parishes attended Rescue LIVE

89 ministry leaders attended Mission Equipped

Chinese, Hispanic, and Filipino MINISTRIES

CHINESE MINISTRY

In this year's programming the Chinese Ministry put a focus on the Word of God. Sister Maria Ko, FMA, a renowned Chinese biblical scholar and prolific writer, shared her deep passion for the Word. Edward Liu, an award-winning local photographer, showed parishioners how to meditate on the Word through the lens. RCIA training videos in Mandarin have been used in some parishes for their Chinese-speaking catechumens. The Chinese community also celebrated culturally significant occasions: Masses were celebrated for the Year of the Dragon and to honour and remember ancestors during Ching Ming (Chinese Cultural Tomb Festival).

6
parishes celebrate
Mass in either
Cantonese or Mandarin



HISPANIC MINISTRY

The Hispanic Ministry continued to grow to support the increasing number of farm workers and Hispanic immigrants in the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley. This includes training volunteers for Temporary Farm Workers Ministry in six parishes, minister training in Hispanic ministry at five parishes, integrating Hispanics into the synodal process at St. Ann's in Abbotsford, and running a Spanish language Alpha program at Our Lady of Sorrows, Vancouver. There was also a particular focus on preparing the second edition of the Pastoral Plan for Hispanic Ministry.

600
Spanish Mass weekly
attendees at Our Lady
of Sorrows and Holy
Rosary Cathedral



10
parishes celebrate
Mass in Spanish

FILIPINO MINISTRY

The Filipino Ministry partnered with the Philippines Historama Society of BC to present the stage production Cenaculo (Passion of the Christ), providing an opportunity for a shared spiritual encounter during Lent. The ministry also partnered with the Cebuano Society of Canada for the Official Enshrinement of St. Pedro Calungsod, the Filipino patron saint of migrants and youth, at St. Monica's in Richmond. In addition, the community celebrated parish devotions, including the second anniversary of the opening and dedication of the Santo Niño Shrine at St. Anthony of Padua in Agassiz.

36
parishes celebrating
the Simbang Gabi
Christmas Novena

26
volunteers supporting
events and
communications





Building Bridges with Our *Brothers and Sisters*

ECUMENISM AND INTERFAITH RELATIONS

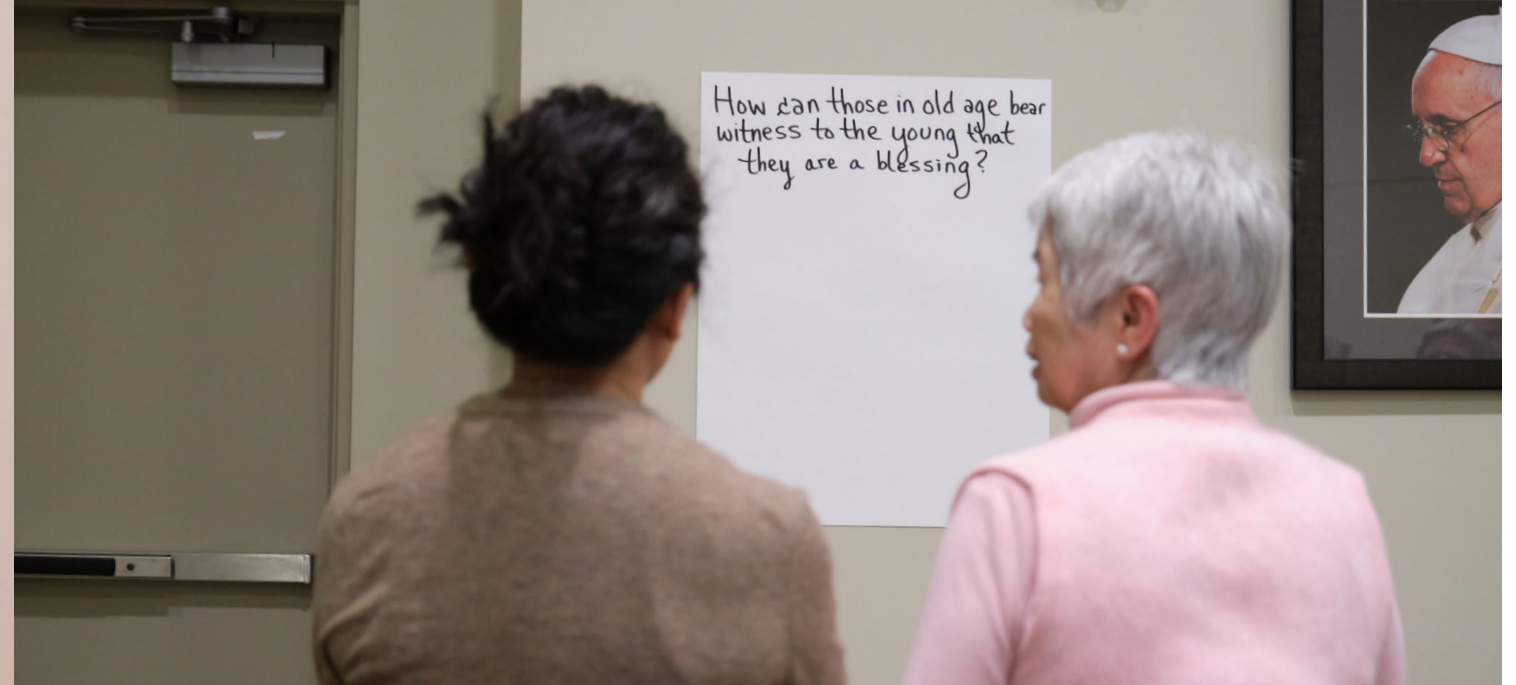
Ecumenism and Interfaith Relations is overseen by a nine-person commission appointed by Archbishop Michael. This ministry supports 40 parish representatives in building relations with local Christian churches and other faith groups.

In November 2023, a retreat was organized for parish representatives to come together in prayer and seek God's guidance in fostering a culture of ecumenism and interfaith relations in local communities. The retreat provided valuable opportunities for sharing and mutual support. In 2024, eleven joint prayer services were held for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Moreover, the Archdiocese has actively participated on the Canadian Council of Churches' Justice and Peace Commission. Several Catholic reflections were included in the publication of an ecumenical anti-racism devotional booklet.

The year also marked new endeavours, which included:

- ◆ Attending a Friday prayer service in September 2023 with the Archbishop at BC Muslim Association's Richmond Jamia Masjid
- ◆ Public prayer support at rallies organized by the Jewish community following the Oct. 7 Hamas attack
- ◆ Over 120 attendees at a community dinner and conversation between Rabbi Dan Moskowitz and the Archbishop with the Temple Sholom community in November 2023



Pro-Life

PRO-LIFE SUNDAY

◆
Over \$163,000 contributed to the 2023 second collection

◆
19 pro-life grants amounting to more \$156,000

Funding received from the second collection supported numerous pro-life events and programs, including a Reverence for Life conference for high school students, the B.C. March for Life, local crisis pregnancy centres, pregnancy care outreach to Indigenous communities, Rachel's Vineyard, and the Life Affirmation Program.

Grants also went to different media projects such as the film "Dead Wrong" on euthanasia and mental illness, and several publications on end-of-life issues and palliative care.





Children's Religious Education

The children of the Archdiocese are supported in their religious education through various programs.

5,350 total students in PREP

3 new atriums (CGS classrooms) were opened

This year, three new levels of formation created for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd reaped significant benefits for children and catechists. Through their training, catechists have influenced their pastors and principals in rethinking faith formation for children. Parishes are also incorporating elements of CGS into other ministries like PREP, RCIA, and Liturgy of the Word for Children (LWC). We have also provided new opportunities for teachers to receive this formation, such as offering a Bilingual French Immersion School for Level 1 CGS formation.

61 catechists certified across three levels of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS)

400+ hours of combined training in CGS

A partnership with Franciscan at Home, an online formation platform, provides continual catechist formation in PREP and LWC. In-person "Beginning Catechists Training" and "Orientation to LWC" have resumed with the addition of Franciscan at Home elements to enrich course delivery.



Vanspec

Vanspec helps students with diverse needs receive sacramental preparation and ongoing faith formation regardless of age or abilities.

53 volunteers across all centres

24 students received the Sacraments in 2024

16 volunteers across all centres

44 students in 2023-2024 catechetical year

The ministry has provided support to PREP teachers who serve students with diverse needs through the use of adaptive materials. Volunteers from Catholic high schools serve as teaching assistants.

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish warmly welcomed Vanspec to celebrate the sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation. The faith community supported the ministry with a choir, and volunteers organized a reception for the First Communicants and their families.

“Vanspec has taught me that Christ’s image is present in every human being, while our students have taught me how to find joy in the smallest things that I take for granted. As a catechist, we serve the needs of our students, but they allow us to encounter Christ more intimately in our hearts, and that’s what keeps this ministry going. Vanspec has been life-giving in my vocational journey, and I am forever grateful for our students who play a significant role in the Body of Christ.”

Brenna Maduro
Site Coordinator



Catholic Schools

The 2023-2024 academic year saw many highlights and milestones throughout the Catholic Independent Schools of Vancouver Archdiocese.

16,566 students enrolled
81% ARE CATHOLIC STUDENTS

860 teachers
638 education assistants

MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES



École Saint-Sacrement
(Blessed Sacrament Elementary)
Vancouver

Notre Dame Regional Secondary
Vancouver



St. Francis Xavier Elementary
Vancouver



St. Helen's Elementary
Burnaby
St. Patrick's Regional Secondary
Vancouver

SERVICE IN ACTION

Students across the Archdiocese put service into action through support of different organizations and causes.

- ◆ A Mass in honour of the Holy Childhood Association brought together a community of CISVA schools to empower and encourage students to help children around the world.
- ◆ The community at St. Augustine's Elementary in Vancouver raised funds and collected food donations for the Door is Open.
- ◆ Students at Cloverdale Catholic Elementary raised \$1,090 during their Missions Week. They welcomed Audrey Burm, president of Help Burkina Faso Canada, who spoke with them about this charity and the projects it has completed, some of which were funded by the students.

EMPOWERING YOUNG LEADERS

Young Citizens of the World was started by Blessed Sacrament Elementary Grade 5 teacher Marc-André Tremblay. This initiative has grown from humble beginnings into an international program, giving students from 1,000 schools access to politicians, activists, athletes, actors, and more. Through the last four and a half years the organization has hosted 76 speakers for students in 22 countries.

ADVANCING RECONCILIATION

In May, the Grade 4 students of St. Patrick's Elementary and St. Joseph's Elementary, both in Vancouver, gathered at St. Patrick's for a Kairos Blanket Exercise, an interactive educational tool developed by the Canadian organization KAIROS to enhance awareness and understanding of the historical and contemporary experiences of Indigenous peoples in Canada.

KAMLOOPS SACRED COVENANT

On Easter Sunday, Archbishop Miller and Bishop Joseph Nguyen of Kamloops signed a Sacred Covenant with the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc (Kamloops First Nation) which formalized a new relationship among the parties.

The Covenant outlines practical commitments, including memorializing residential school students, facilitating access to historical records, and retaining scientific expertise to support the Nation's efforts in uncovering truth and promoting healing and reconciliation.



Indigenous Healing and Reconciliation



INDIGENOUS RECONCILIATION FUND

The Indigenous Reconciliation Fund supports projects related to healing, reconciliation, culture, education, and dialogue. Since the fund's inception in 2021, 21 Healing and Reconciliation grants have been distributed by the Archdiocese, totalling over \$1.1 million.



This past year, over \$711,000 was awarded for the following grant projects:

- ◆ Event-space construction for the St'at'imc Powwow Grounds
- ◆ National Indian Brotherhood (NIB) Trust Fund for Reconciliation
- ◆ Stó:lō Gathering at the Coqualeetza Cultural Center
- ◆ Cultural workshops to address colonization and racism
- ◆ Cultural Programming at the Dr. Peter Centre
- ◆ Knowledge project for the B.C. Metis Federation
- ◆ Language translation project for the Sts'ailes Band
- ◆ Sacred Covenant with the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc (Kamloops)
- ◆ On-the-Land Protections and Usages for the Sierra Club
- ◆ St'at'imc Declaration Gathering
- ◆ Uut Uustukyuu Traditional Medicine and Wellness
- ◆ Healing Journey Series for the Sts'ailes Band

PARISH RECONCILIATION GROUPS

The goal of Parish Reconciliation Groups is to work toward reconciliation with our Indigenous brothers and sisters in a variety of ways. Through the light of faith and prayer these groups focus on education and awareness within each group and parish. To date, the goal has been to better understand our shared history and create welcoming spaces in our hearts and parishes. Six parishes in the Archdiocese currently have active Parish Reconciliation Groups, with members discerning how to deepen their Indigenous knowledge, build relationships, and act together as individuals and communities.

Bringing *Hope and Healing* to the Most Vulnerable

PRISON MINISTRY

Leadership from within the parish is vital for growing prison ministry. The invitation to “come and see” (Jn 1:39) is more tangible when individuals encounter someone they know who has experienced this ministry to the incarcerated.

St. Ann’s Parish in Abbotsford hosted a volunteer recruitment drive for prison ministry with the support of the pastor. A dozen people showed up to learn more about the ministry, and work is underway to assist new volunteers through the clearance process required by the institutions.

Three permanent deacons serve in our federal prisons. There is, however, a growing need for Catholic chaplains in our provincial and federal institutions. This year, prison ministry collaborated with the Archdiocese’s diaconate program to explore more opportunities for deacons to serve in the prisons.

The presence of Catholic clergy and volunteers at different institutions has a powerful impact.

One man, named Carl, journeyed with prison ministry while he was still in prison. He was attracted to the Catholic faith by the witness of volunteers. Upon release, Carl was welcomed into a parish by the pastoral team. With full disclosure of his past to the pastor, Carl helped the parish live out what it means to be a welcoming Eucharistic community. He inspired significant changes within the parish leadership and was received into full communion with the Church this Easter. Bridging the gap between prisons and parishes is an important element of the ministry, which equips parish teams to feel confident in welcoming recently released individuals into their fold.

“Catholic volunteers are always here, every Monday night. We look forward to it. No matter if it is a holiday, bad weather, you come.

We really appreciate that.

Jim
Inmate at B.C.
correctional centre



VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

The Volunteer Program helps Catholics to be more involved in the corporal and spiritual works of mercy in their parish.

This past year, 15 parishes were aided in recruiting and launching a volunteer program. 50% of parishioners express interest in participating when volunteer programs are launched at their parish.

Greater collaboration has developed between our Catholic schools and the Volunteer Program. 40 CISVA schools responded to the needs of the Men’s Shelter and The Door is Open.

“This is what impresses me about the Catholic Church. You help everyone, even non-Catholics.

An Eritrean Orthodox Catholic picking up a non-Catholic at Vancouver International Airport

REFUGEE PROGRAM

The Refugee Program encourages parishes to participate in refugee sponsorship, providing parishioners – many of whom are immigrants themselves – with a deeply fulfilling ministry where they can share their experiences of coming to Canada. In this way they live out their Catholic faith and demonstrate the love of Jesus to the vulnerable.

133 people with applications pending submission

57 people with applications pending submission

29 people interviewed for potential sponsorship

27 parishes participate in the refugee program

7 people successfully completed sponsorship settlement



Men's Shelter

66,000+ meals served

The Men's Shelter provides meals, beds, and shower facilities for up to 90 days for each guest received into the program. The shelter also provides free care kits with soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, razors, and clothing for those who need them. Case management services are also available for guests to support them in getting additional outside resources to help them transition into more permanent housing.

661 men served from Sept. 1 to May 17

Collaboration with parishes provided parishioners the opportunity to exercise the corporal works of mercy by helping to feed the homeless population served by the Men's Shelter. For example, parishes on the North Shore supplied homemade meals twice a month. Volunteers from other parishes serve at the shelter and donate care kit items.

A new addition to Men's Shelter programming included a bi-weekly musical concert program, which creates a sense of community among guests.



The Door is Open

109,150 meals served in 2023-2024

“The most amazing parts of my life have been the moments shared, loving everyone, even those who could not love me back... **It was not the quantity of service that I gave, but the extra miles that I walked with the most marginalized and vulnerable people** in the Downtown Eastside that made me smile. The laughter, the stories shared and listened to - sometimes they made me smile, and sometimes they made me cry.”

Sister Chita Torres, The Door is Open



Catholic Cemeteries

Catholic Cemeteries operates Gardens of Gethsemani and St. Peter's Cemetery. Its mission is to evangelize the living, educate and support families to prepare for the end of life, bury the dead, comfort families, and provide sacred space for prayer and worship.

IN THE PAST YEAR:

- ◆ 1,300+ families served in preparing memorial plans
- ◆ 600+ families assisted with immediate memorial needs and aftercare services
- ◆ 15+ parish Meaningful Funerals & Sacred Burials seminars hosted
- ◆ Held monthly Estate & Memorial Planning webinars
- ◆ Served the community with a monthly Mass of Remembrance
- ◆ Provided bereavement support with monthly Rosary Walks, support groups, and providing bereavement resources
- ◆ Hosted school groups who received information on the end of life from a Christian perspective and on the meaning of the Resurrection. Students also cleaned veterans' and priests' graves

ENLIGHTENED BY THE LIGHT OF THE RESURRECTION

This year, Catholic Cemeteries published a new prayerbook called the "Stations of the Resurrection," a growing devotion commemorating Christ's appearances after his Resurrection. The prayerbook was released with the opening of a new burial and devotional area at the Gardens of Gethsemani called the Way of Light. The area features the 14 Stations of the Resurrection, offering an additional space for prayer and reflection.



BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

14 parishes now offering bereavement support

Quarterly meetings with parish bereavement ministers were held over the past year. These meetings are an opportunity to debrief, get to know each other, and provide support in this challenging ministry.

MINISTRY TO THE SICK AND SUFFERING

- ◆ **20 volunteers** trained for the eight-week Spiritual Care series, which educates parishioners on serving those who are suffering and need expressions of care and love
- ◆ **45 attendees** at parish Horizons of Hope workshops using the palliative care program produced by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops
- ◆ **101 participants** in the Being With program, a training course on visiting the sick and homebound



Advancing the Mission

MY SUNDAY OFFERING

5,023 parishioners used My Sunday Offering, the Archdiocesan parish offering page

3,500 weekly or monthly recurring gifts were made

1,460 additional donors made single donations

\$3.8 million for parishes

ARCHBISHOP'S PRIORITIES

Archbishop Miller was helped in advancing his pastoral priorities by the Twelfth Annual Archbishop's Dinner in November 2023, which was attended by 833 guests and raised over \$558,224 for the Caring for Our Clergy fund.

ARCHBISHOP'S PRIORITIES

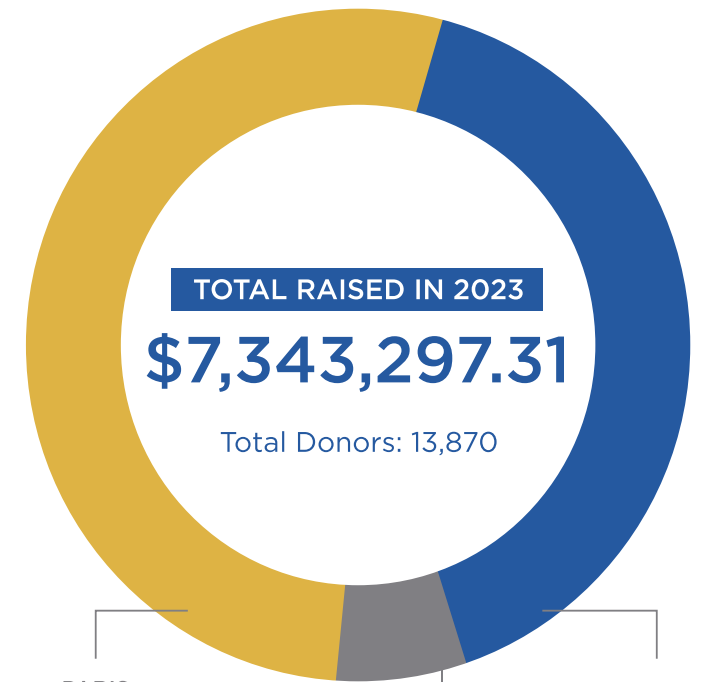
- ◆ 145,000 gifts totalling over \$16 million from more than 18,000 donors
- ◆ \$865,000 from estate gifts for parish priorities and various Archdiocesan ministries
- ◆ 144 gifts of publicly traded securities totalling nearly \$1.6 million

ARCHDIOCESAN PRIORITIES & GRANTS	\$3,000,000
Secondary School Construction Fund	\$1,950,000
Chaplaincy	\$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
Cultural Ministry	\$50,000
First Nations Ministry	\$50,000

2023 SPECIAL GRANT RECIPIENTS \$100,000

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 organizations listed categorically below.

- | | |
|---|--|
| Talitha Koum Society | Domestic Abuse Services - Our Lady of Good Counsel Society |
| St. Paul's Foundation of Vancouver | Columbus Residence |
| St. Mark's College | Christian Addictions Recovery Ministries Society |
| Signal Hill | Catholic Street Missionaries Society |
| Sanctuary Mental Health Ministries | Catholic Justice Services Society |
| Sancta Maria House | Catholic Christian Outreach Canada Inc. |
| NET Ministries of Canada | |
| Life Restoration Ministries | |
| L'Arche Foundation of Greater Vancouver | |



PARISH REBATES	\$3,969,979.00
ADMINISTRATION & EXPENSES*	\$365,290.93

The amount that is raised above each parish's goal after expenses is rebated back to the parish for a priority project or need. This year the projects ranged from the creation of a regional youth ministry program, to school renovations, to new furnaces and air conditioning.



PROJECT ADVANCE 2023 Empowering our Parish Vision

projectadvance.ca





Parish Enhancement Fund

The Parish Enhancement Fund offers financial support for innovative parish initiatives, especially those aimed at shifting parish culture from maintenance to mission as well as fostering leadership development.

The Parish Enhancement Fund supports parishes in promoting parish renewal and inspiring others to do the same.

15 parishes supported
\$128,100 in funding provided

“The funding that Holy Cross received from the Parish Enhancement Fund helped us hold a successful men’s Alpha program, the first in Vancouver Archdiocesan history. Over 80 men signed up for the 11-week Introduction to Christianity course, with approximately 60 attending on any given week. We are planning to organize another Alpha in the beginning of 2025. This time, it will be open to all adults.”

Father Chris Pastuszka, Pastor,
 Holy Cross Parish, Burnaby

Property and Infrastructure

Behind every capital project is a desire to enhance the mission of parish communities.

CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS COMPLETED OR UNDERWAY:

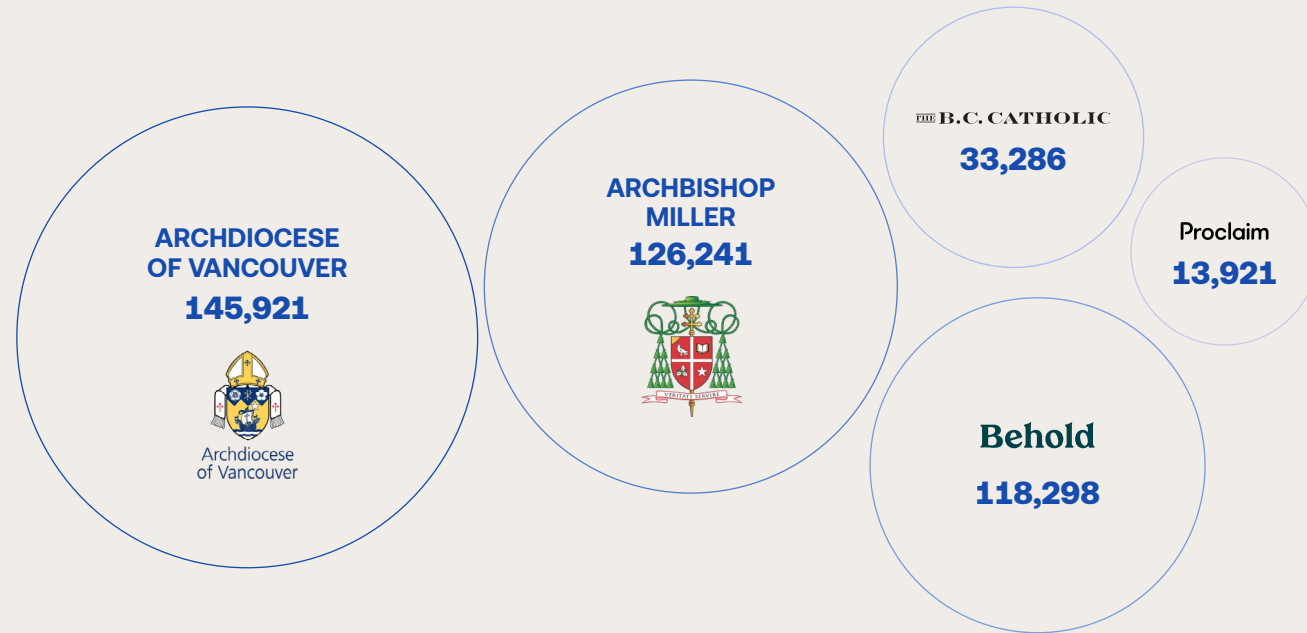
Blessed Sacrament Elementary	School Seismic Upgrade
Holy Cross Regional Secondary	School Seismic Upgrade and Site Redevelopment
Holy Family Parish, Sechelt	Columbarium
Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Powell River	School Seismic Upgrade
Sacred Heart Parish, Vancouver	Renovation of Rectory and the Kateri Tekakwitha Centre
St. Agnes Kim Parish, Coquitlam	Renovation of Rectory
St. Andrew's Elementary, Vancouver	Building Envelope Project (phase 1)
St. Andrew Kim Parish, Surrey	Renovation of Rectory
St. John Paul II Academy	New School Building
St. Joseph's Parish, Mission	Renovation of Rectory
St. Stephen's Parish, North Vancouver	Renovation of Parish Hall and Kitchen

OTHER INITIATIVES INCLUDE:

- ◆ Developing a policies and procedures manual for capital projects
- ◆ Developing design guidelines for CISVA schools
- ◆ Producing a newsletter and building maintenance checklists to assist parishes in maintaining their buildings and developing mission-driven capital projects

Communications

People we've reached on social media in the past year



OUR CATHOLIC MEDIA

The B.C. Catholic newspaper won several awards this past year:

From the Canadian Christian Communicators Association (CCCA)

- ◆ First place for newspaper feature layout and design
- ◆ Second place for best newspaper front page
- ◆ Third place for website general excellence
- ◆ Third place for best headline
- ◆ Third place for service journalism with the vocation package
- ◆ Third place for best editorial

From the Catholic Media Association

- ◆ First place for best annual report

DIGITAL SUPPORT FOR PARISHES

5 more parishes joined the Archdiocese's Tilma platform, bringing the total to 38. The platform provides a welcoming and professional website that offers formative resources and promotes events.



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

KEY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Revenues	2023	2022	2021
Ordinary Collections, Building Fund, and Special Offerings	\$45,389,956	\$41,365,998	\$36,632,745
Parish Programming and Other Fundraising	\$10,378,214	\$8,662,508	\$9,340,768
Project Advance Annual Appeal	\$7,343,297	\$7,241,476	\$7,317,181
National and Diocesan Collections	\$1,729,588	\$2,073,382	\$1,687,677
Expenses	2023	2022	2021
Parish Operations	\$41,883,646	\$38,187,649	\$32,081,881
Parish Capital Expenses	\$3,822,141	\$6,293,248	\$16,538,239
Archdiocesan Operations	\$8,484,060	\$8,753,063	\$6,449,817

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 x̣ṃəθḳəỵəm (Musqueam), Ṣḳẉx̣ẉú7mesh (Squamish), and Səḷílwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

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

Coordinated and created by the Communications Office



Archdiocese of Vancouver

4885 Saint John Paul II Way
Vancouver, BC V5Z 0G3

(604) 683-0281
www.rcav.org

@ARCHVANCOUVER

