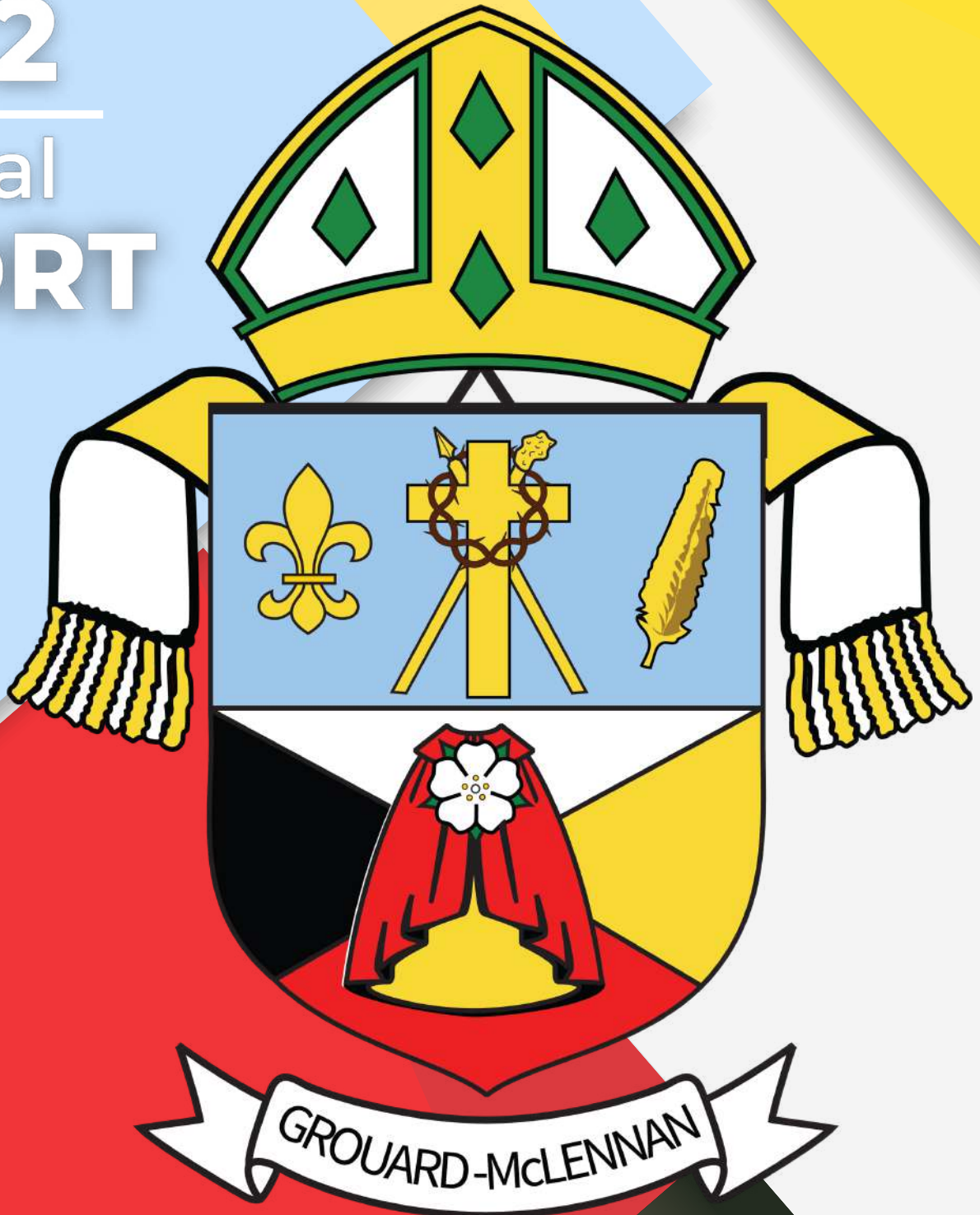


Archdiocese of
Grouard-McLennan

2022

Annual REPORT



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A Message from the Archbishop



Dear Faithful and Clergy of the Archdiocese,

Last year around this time you received our first Annual Report. As a new initiative, it was very well received with much positive feedback. Some spoke in grateful terms of their delight to see such a comprehensive report on what happens throughout our archdiocese. We are all encouraged when we hear good news, and, with that encouragement, we are hoping to continue and expand this Annual Report initiative well into the future.

Communication is important, in part because none of us see all that goes on in an archdiocese as vast as our own. We see the small piece that we ourselves are engaged in - in our local parish, local ministry, and so forth. But we rarely see the whole picture, what is happening in our archdiocese all together. It is for this reason that I want to publish an annual report each year.

As you look through the present report, you will see some topics that didn't appear last year. We particularly wanted to showcase the work of various councils, committees, organizations and offices in our archdiocese, and this year's report reflects that. While we want to share with you our yearly numbers in terms of sacraments, finances and ministries, we also want to acknowledge the committed volunteers who give their time, talent and treasure to a diversity of efforts in the Church.

As bishop, I feel responsible in a way to all of you. My first responsibility, of course, is to the Lord Jesus, for whom and in whose name I exercise my

ministry. But I think it is important that you, the People of God in this archdiocese, have an awareness of all that is attempted and accomplished. You can see how your donations and dedication make a difference, and how you share in the challenges and successes of spreading the Good News.

My mandate is **to sanctify, to teach and to govern**. But none of these responsibilities I do completely on my own. **To sanctify** means, quite simply, "to make holy". In the Catholic tradition, we do this in very specific ways by celebrating sacraments. As I celebrate the Church's seven sacraments, the faithful receive graces that strengthen their life in Christ. In this mandate I have priests and deacons that take their rightful place at my side. They act under my leadership in all the parishes of the diocese.

To teach is to pass on the truths taught by Jesus Christ (as found in Scripture) and the sacred tradition of the Church. Here again, I am not alone in my role as teacher. I have ordained ministers (deacons and priests) who do so in their homilies at Mass, and so many teachers who instruct our youth in Catholic schools, and catechists who prepare the faithful to celebrate sacraments. I have the responsibility to assure that others in the diocese who teach are also faithful to authentic Catholic teaching.

To govern is expressed by my leadership. I am personally responsible for all aspects of the governance of our archdiocese. As we say colloquially, "the buck stops here". I cannot do all of this myself, of course, so I count on co-workers who are at my side. Parish priests are essential here: they are to lead their parishes according to the policies and practices that I establish for the whole diocese. The parish priest is himself to call on the aid of their parish finance council and parish pastoral council to assist him in leading the parish well. Here at the chancery office, I have a Financial Administrator and her staff, a Vicar General, Judicial Vicar, Archivist, Family and Life Coordinator, Communications Officer, and Director of Evangelization and Catechesis. Many of these are on my Council of Priests, Curia, Archdiocesan Pastoral Council ... I could go on. But I think you get the picture.

To sanctify. To teach. To govern. These mandates are reflected in the three offices of Jesus Christ, who is priest, prophet and king. He calls on the Church to carry forward His ministry. I must take seriously my part in that ministry, and I count on the clergy and lay faithful to do their part as well. I hope this Annual Report shines a light on the fact that it is the whole of our archdiocese that is engaged in fulfilling this mission.

Bonne lecture! Happy reading!

Archbishop Gerard Pettipas, CSsR
Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan, Sept. 2023





The Catholic Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan

“Empowering God’s people to grow in holiness through faith, hope and love.”

11, 751

REGISTERED PARISHIONERS
(APPROX.)

67, 543

CATHOLIC POPULATION (APPROX.)



How do we gather these figures?

The number given for **registered parishioners** comes from an internal database with contact information for parishioners in each church of the archdiocese. The number provided is a very general estimate based off of the registration data we currently have on file. It does not include figures that reflect the number of children in each parish, but only adult parishioners and their spouses. The estimate for **Catholic population** comes directly from the official Canadian Catholic Church Directory.



OUR CHURCHES

15 PARISHES

17 QUASI-PARISHES

30 MISSIONS

Map of the Archdiocese divided by Deaneries

Our churches are divided into **five geographically-determined deaneries**. Within these deaneries our churches all fall under the categories of **parish, quasi-parish or mission**.

The communities we serve:

Deanery 1

Donnelly, Eaglesham, Falher, Girouxville, Guy, McLennan, St. Isidore, Tangent

Deanery 2

Duncan First Nation, Fairview, Grimshaw, Hawk Hills, Hines Creek, Manning, Nampa, Peace River, Whitelaw

Deanery 3

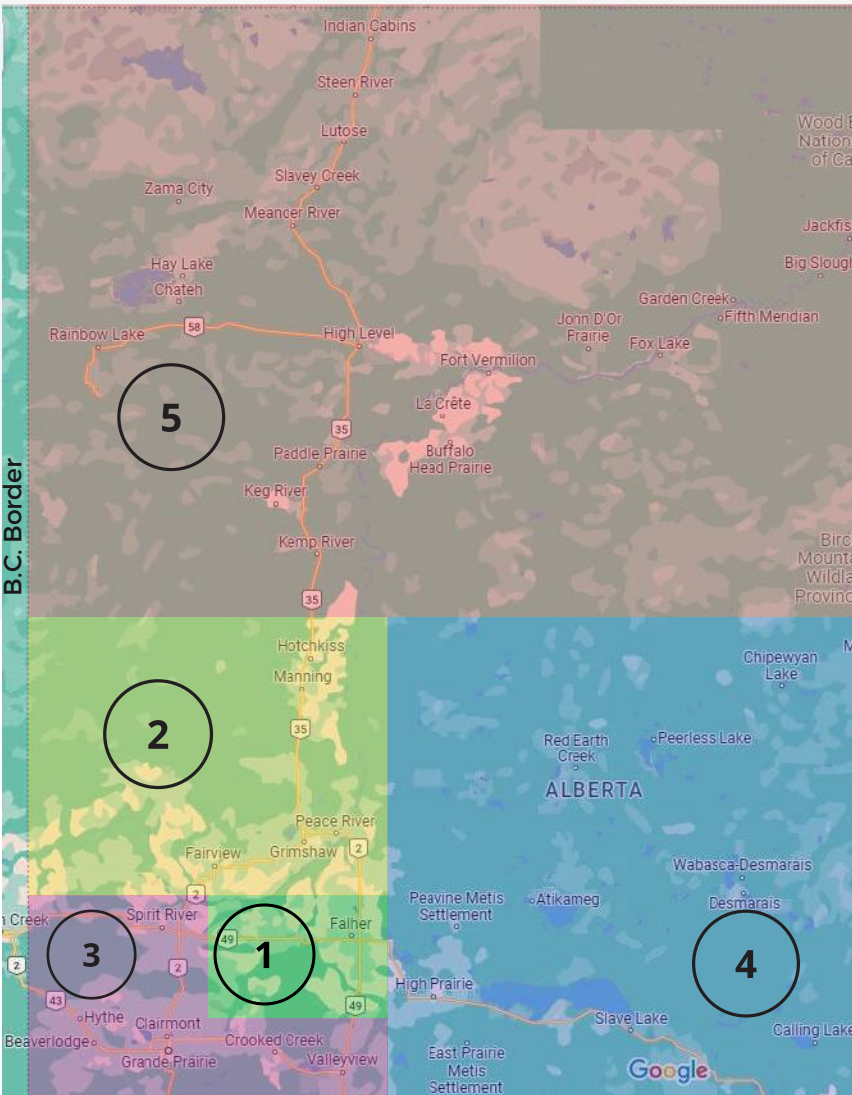
Beaverlodge, Bezanson, Crooked Creek, Grande Prairie, Hythe, Horse Lake, Rio Grande, Rycroft, Sexsmith, Silver Valley, Spirit River, Sturgeon Lake, Valleyview, Wanham

Deanery 4

Atikameg, Cadotte Lake, Chipewyan Lake, Driftpile, East Prairie, Faust, Gift Lake, Grouard, High Prairie, Jousard, Kinuso, Little Buffalo, Peavine, Red Earth Creek, Slave Lake, Smith, Sucker Creek, Trout Lake, Wabasca-Desmarais

Deanery 5

Chateh, Eleske, Fort Vermillion, Fox Lake, Garden River, John D'Or Prairie, Meander River, Paddle Prairie, Rainbow Lake, Tall Cree





RELIGIOUS LIFE

13

DIOCESAN PRIESTS

17

RELIGIOUS PRIESTS



2

RELIGIOUS SISTERS

2

PERMANENT DEACONS



3

SEMINARIANS

2

RELIGIOUS WORKERS



Priests who left our archdiocese in 2022

Due to our reliance on priests from religious orders, it is common that some priests are transferred after a period of ministering in our archdiocese. The decisions to transfer priests are made by the superiors of the religious order. In 2022, **three religious priests** left our archdiocese: **Fr. John Basiimwa, FMH**, who served the communities of Chateh and Rainbow Lake; **Fr. Andrew Simiiyu, FMH**, who served John D'Or Prairie, Fox Lake and Garden River; and **Fr. Ephrem Njallaniyil, MST**, who served Slave Lake, Smith and Kinuso; previously he served Wabasca and Calling Lake.



Homegrown vocations to the priesthood

It is vital we foster calls to religious life in our own archdiocese. **Msgr. Charles Lavoie**, born and raised in **McLennan**, is our only diocesan priest originally from this region. Redemptorist priest **Fr. Ed Eherer, CSsR** was born and raised in **Fairview**, and currently serves as an associate pastor in **Grande Prairie**. **Thomas Wollis**, raised in **Peace River**, is currently in the seminary studying for the priesthood.

Two religious workers joined our archdiocese in 2022

Rudy Jerome Mallannao joined the archdiocese in the spring of 2022, working both with the **Camp St. Martin** leadership team and as a pastoral intern with the **Office of Evangelization and Catechesis**. **Brylle Buenaventura** came to our archdiocese in October of 2022, and is currently serving as a pastoral intern at **St. Paul's Church** in **High Prairie**.

These men have completed their seminary formation in the Philippines and have been brought to our archdiocese as **religious workers**. After a two-year period of discernment and training, the archdiocese will decide if they will be ordained and incardinated as diocesan priests.

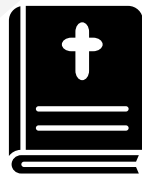


SACRAMENTS



Catechumens & Candidates

By **catechumens** we mean those persons, aged 7 or older, who were prepared for Baptism and Confirmation through the **OCIA** (formerly RCIA) program. In the majority of cases, these catechumens officially entered the Church during the Easter Vigil Mass. This statistic also includes **candidates**, persons who were baptized in another Christian tradition, but were subsequently accepted into the Catholic Church and received the sacraments of Confirmation and First Communion.



Rite of Lectors

On Aug. 21st, 2022, Archbishop Gerard Pettipas installed two of our seminarians - **Thomas Wollis** and **Paul Edo-Aranmude** - to the Rite of Lector.

Lectors are persons who proclaim the Old Testament and Epistle readings at Mass. Lectors have served the Church in a non-instituted capacity for many years. In 2022, Pope Francis instituted a revised Rite of Lector for lay men and women, to formalize and strengthen this important ministry within the Church.

391 BAPTISMS

359 CONFIRMATIONS

266 FIRST COMMUNIONS

36 MARRIAGES

38 CATECHUMENS & CANDIDATES

2 RITE OF LECTOR





FINANCES

Revenue & Expenditures 2022

Revenue 2022

Assessment of Operation (A)	262,959
Catholic Missions in Canada (B)	558,779
Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy	22,164
Northern Missions (C)	26,120
Partnership w/ Arch. of Toronto (D)	68,136
Archbishop's Dinner	5,400
Donations (E)	52,632
Camp St. Martin (F)	25,600
Services Rendered	29,969
Total Revenue	\$1,051,754

Comparison to 2021*

Revenue 2021

352,239
408,370
122,991
22,601
-
6,575
46,960
34,238

**Check the 2021 Report for the full details on these numbers.*

Total Revenue \$993,974

Expenditures 2022

Archbishop's Ministry (G)	194,788
Vicar General's Ministry	524,502
Youth Ministry (H)	44,728
Faith Formation Ministry (I)	53,001
Communications Ministry (J)	79,064
Family & Life Ministry	-
Chancellor's Ministry	91,719
Finance Ministry	201,758
Missions (K)	363,252
Building and Maintenance (L)	190,810
Priest Formation & Recruitment	48,474

Total Expenditures \$1,322,467

Expenditures 2021

142,562
52,201
21,959
21,908
53,746
-
84,070
249,906
424,581
93,566
69,403

Total Expenditures \$1,214,102

Deficiency of Revenues over Expenses from Operation -\$270,713

Other Income (M)

Income Investments (N)	-240,033
Cost of Investment (O)	-231,589

Excess of Revenues over Expenses -\$742,335

-\$220,127

1,512,093.61
-304,995

\$986,971



Revenue

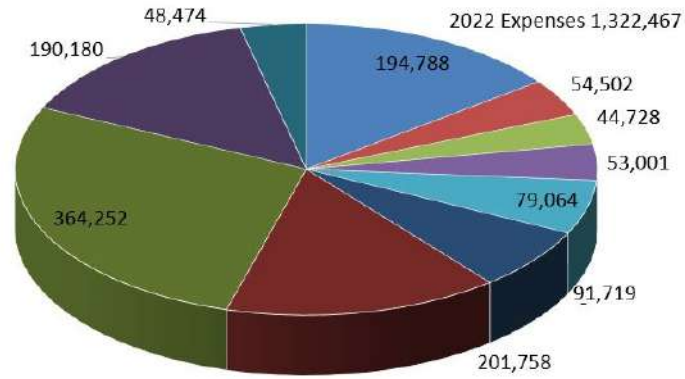
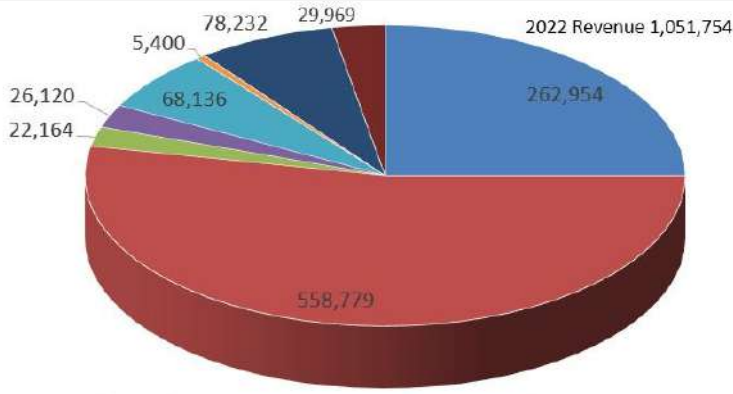
- (A) **Assessment of Operation** refers to revenue the archdiocese receives from parishes for its operating expenses. The archdiocese receives 13% of all revenue calculated from each of its parishes. In 2022, there was a decrease of 25% (-\$89,285) compared to 2021.
- (B) Each year, the archdiocese applies for funding through **Catholic Missions in Canada (CMIC)**. This program helps us in providing funding for our mission churches, seminarians and other diocesan programs.
- This grant is based on the expenditures required for each mission and program. It is not guaranteed each year. In 2022 we received \$558,779, representing \$36,000 for our seminarian fund, \$62,316 for the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis, \$38,535 for needed infrastructure repairs in one of our mission churches and \$421,928 to cover the rest of our mission churches. This amount represents 74% of our applications.
- (C) All churches that celebrate an Ash Wednesday Mass or service are expected to take up a collection for the needs of the **northern missions** in the Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan. Typically, the proceeds from this collection will be directed to an identified repair or renovations project needed in one of our mission churches or rectories. For the 2022 budget, the Finance Council of the archdiocese redirected this collection towards the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund, to cover the \$33,000 yearly commitment of the archdiocese over the next five years. In 2022 this collection received \$26,120, the short fall of \$6,880 was covered in our regular yearly expenditure.
- (D) The Archdiocese of Grouard McLennan receives financial support from the Archdiocese of Toronto to fund specific projects. In 2022, \$68,136 was given for needed repairs to the roof of the rectory/former chancery building in McLennan.
- (E) We received \$52,632 in **donations** in 2022. Donations to the archdiocese are received through Second Mile Giving, credit card, e-transfer, cheque, cash, or PAD.
- (F) The archdiocese received \$25,600 in registrations for **Camp St. Martin**.


Expenditures

- (G) There was a \$52,226 increase in expenditures for the **Archbishop's Ministry**, specifically to fund the training and ministry of priests.
- (H) With the relaunch of Camp St Martin after COVID restrictions, the **Youth Ministry** office had an increase of \$22,769 in 2022. Most of this was able to be covered by income received through camp registrations.
- (I) The **Faith Formation Ministry** saw an increase of \$31,042 in expenditures in 2022, with the employment of pastoral worker Rudy Jerome Mallannao who became a full-time member of the archdiocesan Office of Evangelization and Catechesis (OEC). There was an increase in activity in this office, as seen on page 24 of this report.
- (J) The expenditure for the **Communications Ministry** increased by \$25,318 compared to 2021. 2022 was the first year this office had a full-time staff member. A variety of new equipment for the communications office was also purchased for this ministry.
- (K) There was a decrease of \$60,329 in expenditures to our **Missions** due to a shortage of two priests working in our northern mission churches. Fr. John Basiimwa, FMH, based in Chateh, and Fr. Andrew Simiiyu, FMH, based in Little Red River Cree Nation, left the archdiocese in 2022.
- (L) Each year the archdiocese chooses a building for a major repair project. The decision is made based on budget and the urgency of the repair. There was an increase in our **Building and Maintenance** expenditures, due to repairs of the parish in Fort Vermillion (funded by CMIC) and repairs on the rectory/former chancery office in McLennan (funded through our partnership with the Archdiocese of Toronto). In total there was an increase of \$97,244 in expenses compared to 2021.

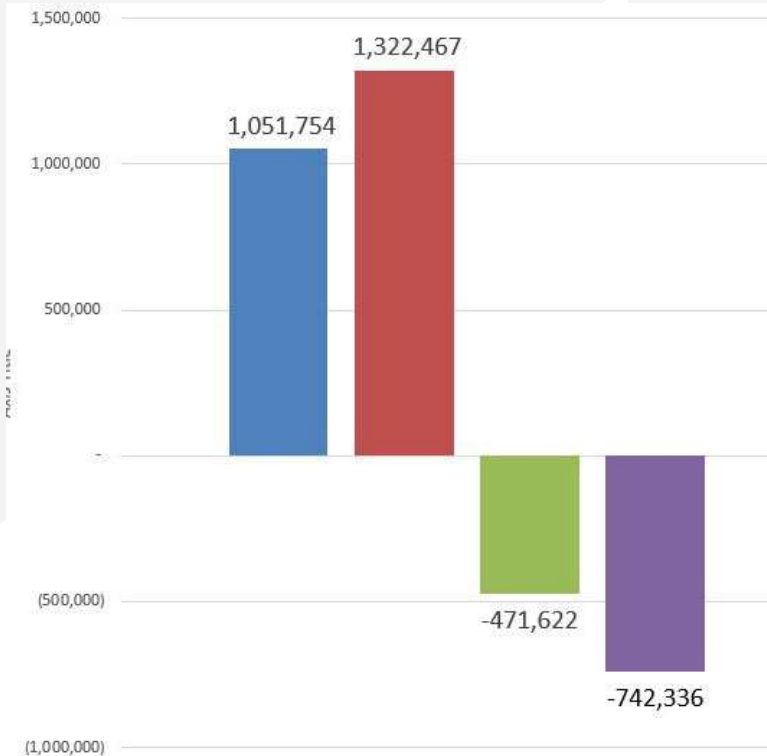
FINANCES

Revenue & Expenditures 2022

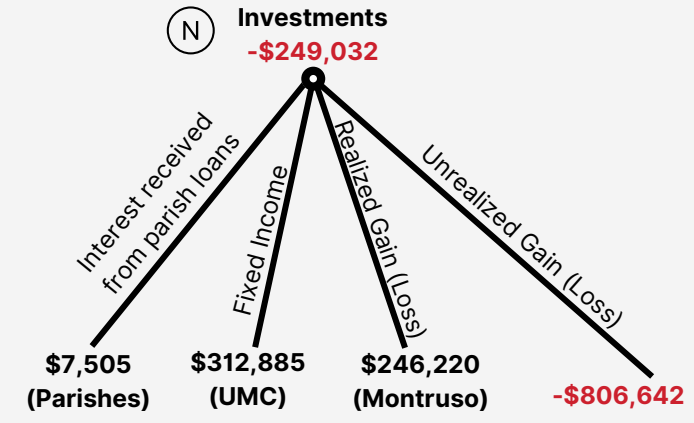


- Assessment of Operation 262,954
- Catholic Missions in Canada 558,779
- Archbishop's Ministry 194,788
- Vicar General's Ministry 54,502
- COVID - Refund 22,164
- Northern Missions 26,120
- Youth Ministry 44,728
- Faith Formation Ministry 53,001
- North-South Partnership 68,136
- Archbishop's Dinner 5,400
- Communication Ministry 79,064
- Family & Life Ministry -
- Donations (with Camp registrations) 78,232
- Services Rendered 29,969
- Office of the Chancellor 91,719
- Finance Ministry 201,758
- Missions 364,252
- Buildings and Maintenance 190,180
- Priest Formation & Recruitment 48,474

(M) The Archdiocese of Grouard McLennan's **investments** are in a balanced portfolio (50/50) between mortgages with UMC Financial Management Inc from Edmonton and stocks & bonds with Montrusco Bolton from Montreal.



- Total Revenue
- Total Expenditure
- Excess of Expenses Over Revenue
- Total Loss

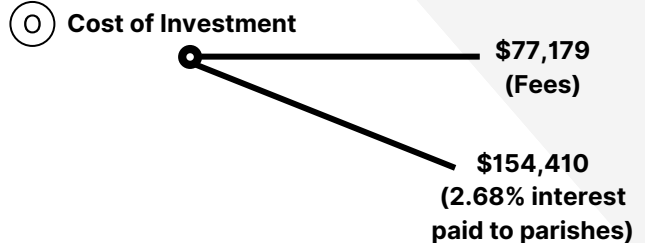


Interest received from parish loans: When a parish has an unexpected expenditure that needs to be tended to immediately, the Archdiocese will assist in procuring a loan (with interest), through the Archdiocese or a financial institution.

Fixed Income: Our fixed income is from mortgage investments. These investments involve less income and less risk.

Realized Gain (Loss): This occurs when the value of assets is sold for a higher price (or lower) than when it was purchased

Unrealized Gain (Loss): This occurs when the value of assets has increased (or decreased), but has not yet been sold.





FINANCES

Assets, Equity and Liabilities

Assets 2022

Current assets	
Cash (in accounts)	636,575
Accounts receivable & Loan	<u>903,122</u>
	\$1,539,697
Investments	
Montrusco Bolton Portfolio	4,721,933
UMC Mortgage Portfolio	<u>4,864,705</u>
	\$9,586,638
Capital assets	\$1,768,774
Total assets	\$12,895,109

Liabilities 2022

Current liabilities	
Account payable	270,130
Total liabilities	\$270,130

Equity 2022

Appropriated equity	
Youth Priest Seminar Fund	3,374
Due to Relate Parties	126,780
Insurance and Building Fund	374,754
Communications Fund	-
Pension Fund - Liability	939,585
Parish Investment	<u>6,207,124</u>
	\$7,651,617
Capital equity	5,715,698
Unappropriated equity	-742,336
Total equity	12,624,979
Total liabilities and equity	\$12,895,109

Comparison to 2021

Assets 2021

	682,702
	<u>588,785</u>
	\$1,271,487
	5,321,241
	<u>4,990,263</u>
	\$10,311,504
	\$1,782,436
	\$13,365,427

Liabilities 2021

	722,804
	\$722,804

Equity 2021

	6,914
	143,732
	4,601
	500
	863,034
	<u>5,908,144</u>
	\$6,926,925
	4,728,727
	986,971
	12,642,623
	\$13,365,427



CATHOLIC EDUCATION

All stats are for the 2021-2022 school year

Grande Prairie & District Catholic Schools



Nichole Gerein, Supervisor of Religious Education Grande Prairie & District Catholic Schools

Grande Prairie & District Catholic Schools

"Grande Prairie Catholic School District provides Catholic Education to families in Grande Prairie, Beaverlodge, Spirit River, Sexsmith and Fairview communities. During the school year, over 700 staff members worked to provide a faith permeated education to thousands of students from Pre-K through to Grade 12.

5,434 STUDENTS

700 STAFF (APPROX.)

15 SCHOOLS

"Throughout the school year, GPCSD staff and students embraced the year's theme of "Believe in the unconditional love of Christ" through various means, including faith retreats, dedicated daily prayers, and meaningful service projects. These experiences provided opportunities for staff and students to deepen their connection with Jesus, fostering spiritual growth, a sense of purpose, and a commitment to living out their faith through acts of love and service."

-Nichole Gerein, Supervisor of Religious Education

École Héritage in Falher (Conseil scolaire du Nord-Ouest)

École Héritage

"We're very excited for our Catholic school community at École Héritage, and its engagement with the CEFFA to implement, over three years, a faith-based youth leadership program based on the John Baptist de La Salle ("lasalliens") values of Faith, Fraternity and Service. This program will encourage students' potential for action, to sharpen their sense of responsibility and to grow through their engagement and achievements."

-Brigitte Kropielnicki, Superintendent of Schools



Brigitte Kropielnicki, Superintendent of Schools Conseil scolaire du Nord-Ouest

165 STUDENTS (PRESCHOOL-GRADE 12)

25 STAFF



CATHOLIC EDUCATION



Holy Family Catholic Regional Division

Betty Turpin,
Superintendent
Holy Family Catholic
Regional Division

Holy Family Catholic Regional Division

Holy Family Catholic Regional Division oversees Catholic schools in the communities of Peace River, Grimshaw, Manning, High Prairie, Valleyview and McLennan.

1,747

STUDENTS

267

STAFF

9

SCHOOLS

"This recent school year allowed our division to return to live events. Among the highlights were Face-Face Ministries retreats for Gr. K-6 students and Access 52 Ministries retreats for Gr. 7-12 students and other faith-based events and activities."

-Betty Turpin, Superintendent



Catholic Schools of Slave Lake

(Living Waters Catholic Seperate School Division)



Living Waters Catholic Seperate School Division

There are two schools within the Living Waters Catholic Regional Division that are within the parameters of our archdiocese: St. Mary of the Lake & St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Schools, both in Slave Lake. This division also contains schools within the parameters of the Archdiocese of Edmonton, with schools in Whitecourt and Edson.

109

STUDENTS (ST. MARY OF THE LAKE)

16

STAFF (ST. MARY OF THE LAKE)

92

STUDENTS (ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI)

16

STAFF (ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI)



CHANCERY



Most Rev. Gerard Pettipas, CSSR has been **Archbishop** of the Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan since 2007. He oversees all of the churches, offices and ministries of the archdiocese. As an archbishop,

he also oversees the bishops of our two suffragan dioceses: Mackenzie-Fort Smith and Whitehorse.

The bishop of any diocese in the Catholic Church is entrusted with three major responsibilities: to sanctify, to teach and to govern. He is the guide and leader for all parish priests, ministers and chancery staff who help him in fulfilling these three mandates across the region.



Msgr. Charles Lavoie is the **Vicar General** of the Archdiocese. The Vicar General is a priest appointed by the diocesan bishop to assist him in the governance

of the diocese, and as such he has executive power of governance of the entirety of the diocese. As the vicar, Msgr. Charles organizes meeting with clergy and attends to the various needs of priests, deacons and seminarians. He meets with individuals, special interest groups and others on behalf of the archbishop and attends to various pastoral needs.



Fr. Michael Uso-Ereyi is both the **Judicial Vicar** and **Vocations Director** of the archdiocese. Every diocese is required by Canon Law to have a Judicial Vicar who oversees all canonical affairs within the

diocese, and aids the archbishop in all judicial functions. Typically, these functions include decisions around the validity of marriages and the receiving of annulments. Fr. Michael works closely with the Marriage Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Edmonton on such matters.

As Vocations Director, Fr. Michael works closely with seminarians and those persons discerning priesthood, religious life, and the permanent diaconate.



Shannon Doiron is the **Archivist** for the archdiocese, and has worked in this position since 2018. In his role, he is in charge of keeping the sacramental records database of the archdiocese up

to date, as well as instructing the priests of the archdiocese on how to properly use their database program for sacramental records – Parish Friendly. He continually updates the baptism registers at the chancery office with information related to the sacraments of confirmation and marriage, and funerals. He handles all requests for sacrament certificates and all requests for historical information/photographs which are routinely made to the chancery office.



CHANCERY



Paulette Carrier is the archdiocese's **Financial Administrator**, overseeing all of the financial matters of the archdiocese and its various operations. These matters include all decisions around banking, budgeting, investments, human

resources and auditing within the archdiocese's various churches and ministries. She works closely with all the parishes of the archdiocese on matters of finance, budgets, and any expenditures related to projects the parishes may tackle - such as in renovations, building projects and other parish-led initiatives. She also helps new priests in their arrival to the archdiocese, with enculturation.



Ester Qualizza is the **Assistant to the Finance Administrator**. With her many years of experience, she is able to manage the day-to-day operation of the finance department. Ester does data

entry for some parish book, coordination of Preauthorize payment. She prepares the monthly payroll for all priests, parish staff and chancery staff. She is always ready to assist when required for any other administrative duty. She joined the archdiocese in 2022 and is our newest full-time staff member.



Wanda Somerville is the archdiocese's **Receptionist /Bookkeeper**. Among her general reception duties are answering and directing all telephone calls to the chancery office, sorting and distributing all incoming

mail and preparing and delivering all outgoing mail, maintaining the inventory of all office supplies, and greeting visitors. She also helps with data entry for parishes. She has worked for the archdiocese since 2017.



Kyle Greenham has been the **Communications Officer** for the archdiocese since 2021. He runs all of the archdiocese's social media accounts and administers the archdiocesan website. He also handles much of the internal

communications between priests and parish staff, creates posters and graphics for various archdiocesan events and initiatives and produces routine videos, such as the series "Ask the Archbishop". He established the archdiocesan magazine "Northern Light" to connect the various communities of the archdiocese through a monthly publication that includes detailed stories, photospreads and other features.

COUNCILS, COMMITTEES & MINISTRIES

Archdiocesan Pastoral Council

The Archdiocesan Pastoral Council (APC) is the major consultative body for the Archbishop of Grouard-McLennan, made up of representatives of the clergy, religious, and laity around the archdiocese. The APC meets four times a year: in May, September, November/December and February/March. Usually, the meetings take place at the Catholic Conference Center in Peace River.

The APC's primary function is to provide advice and information to the archbishop on the pastoral needs of the archdiocese, devise with him appropriate pastoral plans and initiatives and to take an active part in the furthering of these various initiatives. The committee's secondary function is to facilitate communication between the archbishop and the deaneries, parish priests, archdiocesan committees and offices, and other relevant organizations. The Archdiocesan Organization Chart (below) reflects these various committees, organizations and groups and their relation to the archbishop. The committees and offices of the archdiocese submit summary reports to the Secretary to the Archbishop/Executive Assistant before each meeting.



APC Members: 'Ex officio' members

Archbishop: Most Rev. Gerard Pettipas, CSsR

Vicar General, Curia: Msgr. Charles Lavoie, PH

APC Chair: Betty Turpin

Finance Administrator, Curia:

Paulette Carrier

Council of Priests & Deans: Fr. Christian Ogonna, SDV; Fr. Nel Esguerra; Fr. Remi Hebert, CSsR; Fr. Lawrence Odoemena; Fr. Henry Kiggundi, FMH.

Director of Office of Evangelization and Catechesis: Fr. Emmanuel Ekanem

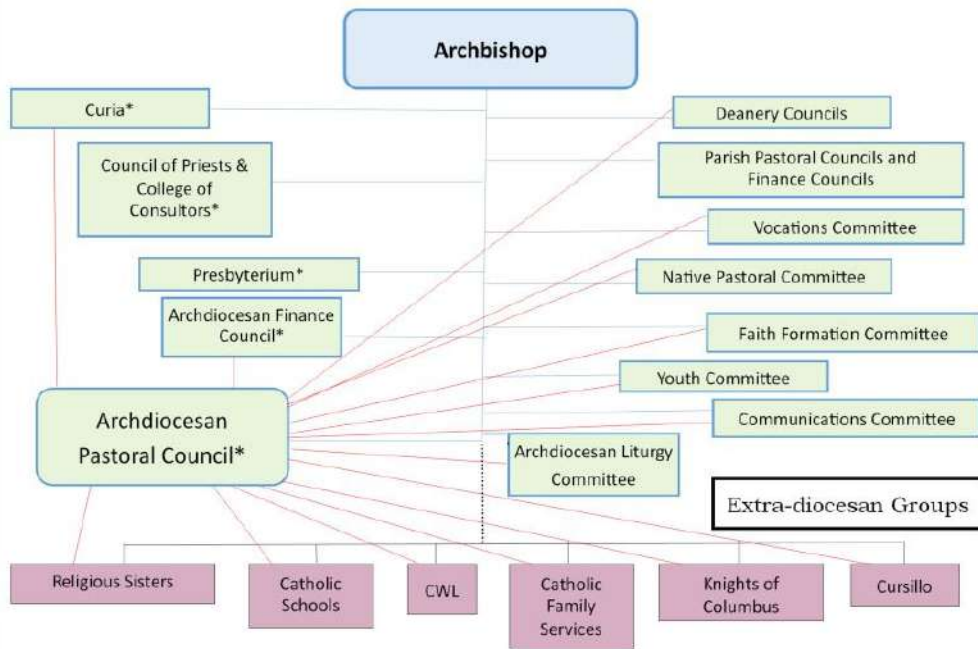
Youth Ministry Coordinator: (vacant)

Communications Officer: Kyle Greenham

Vocations Director, Curia:

Fr. Michael Uso-Ereyi

Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan - Organizational Chart



APC Members: Councils and Committees

Deanery Pastoral Councils: Five deans and appointed parishioners

Finance Council: Roger Loberg

Communications Committee: Kyle Greenham

Youth Committee: (vacant)

Faith Formation Committee: Fr. Emmanuel Ekanem

Indigenous Pastoral Council: Fr. Bernard Akum, SDV

Liturgy Committee: Msgr. Charles Lavoie PH

Vocations Committee: Fr. Jeyapaul Packiswamy

APC Members: Catholic organizations

Grande Prairie & District Catholic Schools: John Croken

Holy Family Regional Catholic Division: Kelly Whalen

Conseil scolaire du Nord-Ouest: Sylvianne Maisonneuve

Cursillo Secretariat: Debbie Anderson

Catholic Family Services: (vacant)

Religious Sisters: Sr. Connie Harkin, SSND

Catholic Women's League: (vacant)

Knights of Columbus: Ken Landry

Archbishop's Appointees: Betty Turpin

COUNCILS, COMMITTEES & MINISTRIES

Faith Formation Committee

"In the year 2022, the Archdiocesan Faith Formation Committee focused on the theme: 'Inward Faith Initiative Discernment.' During our four meetings held (via Zoom) in 2022, the committee reviewed and evaluated our policies of best pastoral practices for parish faith leaders, particularly in their efforts to relaunch and reintroduce faith formation programs across parishes and schools with the post-pandemic reality then in front of us. Aside from meeting for discussion, the committee worked in conjunction with the leadership of the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis to rededicate their effort in fostering practical approaches that will revive and reignite ministry zeal for catechetical programs and improve church attendance in a post-pandemic world.

"With the diocesan synodality listening gatherings and Church Fully Alive initiatives happening across the diocese, the first two quarters of 2022 was an inward assessment for the committee. We participated in multiple listening sessions, had an in-house assessment on the fruits of our engagement and tabled suggestions to guide a future five-year faith plan for the committee. Hence, the successful outcome of the diocesan synod report reshaped the committee's faith formation approaches for the next half of the year. Also, it provided a road map for future faith initiative planning.

"Among the notable achievements of this committee was the set-up of the Sacrament Preparation Forum to emphasize the centrality of ongoing catechesis in the life of the faithful. This forum brings together all those in charge of faith formation (parish/school volunteers) as a platform to interact and review sacramental formation being done in schools and parishes. It is also an avenue for the diocese to provide support and pass along updates in the areas of catechesis. While this remains new, the long-term goal is to enhance collaborative support, and sustain a unified framework for good catechesis at all levels in accordance with diocesan principles and policies.

Faith Formation Members

Fr. Emmanuel Ekanem, Allan Forsberg, Louise Lee, Sr. Connie Harkin, Laura Tapson, Nichole Gerein, Cora Ostermeier, Payne Cardinal, Miranda D'or, Valerie Sylvain, Linda Vandenberg, Susanne Mcgrath, Shelley Mainville, Dorothy Lieverse, Carl Wanotch, Shirley Marrier, Elvira Merrier, Liane Hvamb, Monika Klaus, RJ Mallanno, Dn. Reg Bouchard, Fr. Michael Dias, Fr. Eucharius Ndzefemiti.

"We are thankful for the voluntary and collective effort of the active members of the FFC. The diocese sincerely appreciates your proactive contributions resulting in fruitful discussions, recommendations and providing leadership support at local faith initiatives/programs both in schools and parishes. Over the past year, the committee had 24 members (serving their 2nd year) representing the five deaneries of the Archdiocese. To know more about this committee, and if you desire to be a member of this committee, feel free to write us: director.oec.agm@gmail.com. Keep faith alive everywhere!"

-Fr. Emmanuel Ekanem, Committee Chair



Youth Committee

"Over the past couple of decades, youth ministry has taken different forms, usually according to the gifts and charism of the persons who have held the position of youth minister. Since my term as bishop, our youth ministry has benefited from the personal gifts of Marie Caillau (now Laliberte), Denis Blanchette, Jocelyne Garant (now Chabot) and Father Emmanuel Ekanem. Assisting and supporting their ministry was a youth committee, made up of members chosen from across the archdiocese.

"Our archdiocese has struggled over the last couple of years to engage a full-time youth minister for the archdiocese. Through the Youth Committee, I have sought the input of past youth committee members in putting together a sustainable and spirit-filled ministry, given the vast territory and demographics of our diocese.

"At the moment of writing this annual report, there is a plan devised for the discernment of a sustainable and engaging youth ministry throughout the archdiocese. We look forward to future Annual Reports in 2023 and 2024 to review how this has progressed."

-Archbishop Gerard Pettipas

COUNCILS, COMMITTEES & MINISTRIES



Vocations Committee

"The Vocations Committee met four times over the 2022 year - in March, June, September and December. There were several initiatives the committee discussed and developed over the year.

"A vocations poster and prayer card in English and French were prepared by the committee and Communications Office and distributed throughout the archdiocese. The committee also provided a template for a Vocations page in our Northern Light magazine. The committee developed an Altar Servers Association to be established within parishes and deaneries. The Communications Office of the archdiocese produced vocation-themed videos on seminarians Paul Edo-Aranmude and Thomas Wollis, and on Sr. Connie Harkin and Sr. Mary Jeanne Davidson of the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

"We encourage you to support vocations in the archdiocese by encouraging religious vocations in your family and amongst your parish, by praying for seminarians and others discerning religious life, and by reaching out and joining our vocations committee."

-Fr. Jeyapaul Packiasamy, Committee Chair

Vocations Com. Members

Fr. Michael Uso-Ereyi
Fr. Jeyapaul Packiasamy
Archbishop Gerard Pettipas, CSsR
Msgr. Charles Lavoie
Fr. Leo English, CSsR
Fr. Christian Ogbonna, SDV
Sr. Connie Harkin, SSND
Dn. Gerald Logan
Sandi Belanger
Hervey Chabot
Laureen Wollis
Nicole Blanchette
Seminarians (when they can attend)



Liturgy Committee Members

Annette Dechant
Louise Duval
Nicole Blanchette
Ken Klukas
Marion Logan
Rev. Eucharius Ndzefemiti
Rev. Emmanuel Ekanem
Rev. Cyril Joseph



Liturgy Committee

"The mandate of the liturgy committee is based on several directives: to be knowledgeable about the Church's liturgy and current regulations and trends in liturgical practice; and to promote and communicate an awareness of the Church's liturgical practices to pastors and the faithful of the Archdiocese. As well, the committee is to work in conjunction with the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis, to offer our church communities programs of adult faith formation with an aim to gaining a deeper understanding of the liturgy generally, and to the training of various liturgical ministries. The committee plans the liturgies that are proper to the archdiocese as a whole, including but not restricted to: the Rite of Election, the Chrism Mass, ceremonies of ordination to the Sacrament of Holy Orders (deacon, priest, bishop), and any other such liturgical celebrations which may arise from time to time.

"We are to inform pastors and parish liturgy committees of any changes to or adaptations to liturgical texts or practices from the CCCB office or the Vatican dicastery on liturgy and the sacraments. The liturgy committee also issues guidelines, directives or clarifications on varying practices related to liturgy, liturgical seasons and customs.

"Other initiatives of the committee have been to prepare and distribute Q & A's on the liturgy as parish bulletin inserts. It has also looked at publications and resources to help foster a better celebration and understanding of liturgy in our churches."

-Msgr Charles Lavoie PH, Committee Chair

COUNCILS, COMMITTEES & MINISTRIES



Finance Council

"The Diocesan Finance Council consists of 9 members including Archbishop Pettipas and Paulette Carrier. The council acts in an advisory capacity to assist the archbishop in his decision making regarding all aspects of financial matters across the diocese.

"The Diocesan Finance Council reviewed and discussed many items of importance over the course of 2022. All matters of discussion were related to finances. This included reviews and recommendations related to our investment portfolios. Our investment firms are Montrusco and UMC. Investment returns were very low in 2022 which continued to add strain to diocesan financial health. The council also reviewed and approved several petitions from parishes for Extraordinary Expenditures (parish expenditures exceeding \$5,000 per project). Also discussed was the ongoing budget deficit for the diocese. This is an ongoing concern and there were many discussions regarding potential solutions and opportunities to increase revenue to parishes and the diocese. Pre-COVID, work was initiated on a major fundraising campaign under the banner Strengthened by Faith, Built on Rock. The pandemic interrupted this initiative and a revised approach was kicked off called 'Church Fully Alive'. This initiative continues at present and is focused on increasing and enriching participation in parish life across the diocese. Separately, efforts will be undertaken to inform parishes and parishioners across the diocese regarding current financial difficulties and to appeal to and stimulate a sense of generosity toward increased donations."

-Roger Loberg, Council Chair

Finance Council Members

Archbishop Pettipas
Roger Loberg
Paulette Carrier
Msgr Charles Lavoie
Maurice Gour
Rev. Jeyapaul Packiasamy
Brad Richards
Cita Ajero
Clayton Roska



Communications Committee

"Over the course of the 2022 year, the Communications Committee engaged in a variety of projects and discussions to further increase and improve the communication of information between parishes and the wider archdiocesan community. The committee met for a one hour meeting every month of the year, with the exception of July and August.

"One of the major projects the committee tackled was development of the new archdiocesan website, finally launched in August of 2022. The committee reviewed various options for establishing a new website in the early months of the year. As the new website began development in the spring, the committee routinely reviewed its progress at its meetings, offering insights and recommendations for the communications office and chancery. The committee also engaged in several "brainstorming sessions" on the first Annual Report, reviewing its potential contents and its final layout before the report was released in late October of 2022. The committee also acted as an advisory to continuing communications efforts, such as Northern Light magazine, and offered insights and recommendations related to other archdiocesan projects like the promotion of archdiocesan events, the drafting of bulletin announcements, and the designing of posters."

-Kyle Greenham, Committee Chair

Coms. Committee Members

Kyle Greenham
Msgr. Charles Lavoie
Rev. Jeyapaul Packiasamy
Rev. Hansel Nwachukwouji, SMMM
Maureen Fisher
Karen Benoit
Karen Backmeyer
Rudy Jerome Mallannao
Rev. Emmanuel Ekanem

COUNCILS, COMMITTEES & MINISTRIES

The **Deanery Pastoral Councils** are made up of members from the church communities in each deanery. Guided by the dean, a priest appointed by the archbishop, the councils meet on several occasions throughout the year to discuss matters, events, concerns, and other topics of interest for the deanery. They also look at ways the parishes in the region can mutually support one another.

1

Deanery One Pastoral Council

"Deanery one is made up of eight parishes, namely: Falher, Donnely, St. Isidore, McLennan, Guy, Girouxville, Tangent and Eaglesham. The people of Deanery One are very devoted and committed Christians who go the extra mile in keeping their churches alive as long as they live. The major problem of the Deanery is related to population. The population is diminishing and ageing. One of the greatest assets of our Deanery is the strong faith and commitment of the "faithful few". They are found in every parish and I am proud of them.

"Three priests and one deacon serve these eight parish communities (Deacon Reginald later moved to Grande Prairie). The Clergy meet every two months and we take turns hosting the meetings. In our meetings we share information and experiences from different parishes, review ongoing business, revisit our priorities with the Archdiocesan Pastoral Plan, study reports from APC meetings, and also prepare the agenda for the Deanery Pastoral Council. Deacon Reginald was responsible for Evangelization and Catechesis, Fr. Jean-Cornelis was responsible for Liturgy and CEFFA, Fr. Eucharius was responsible for Youth Ministry and the Dean was the overall coordinator.

"Our Deanery Council meetings are held five times a year. Some of the regular items of the agenda in 2022 were: the Synod on Synodality, Archdiocesan Pastoral Plan, Sacramental Preparation, Liturgy, Youth Ministry, Communication, Reports from the APC (Archdiocesan Pastoral Council) and the sharing of experiences through the reports from different committees and parishes. We established a newsletter for the sharing of information in the Deanery but later stopped as the need for the Newsletter was already taken care of by the good initiatives of the Archdiocesan Communications Officer and the Northern Light magazine. We appointed a communications director for the Deanery who serves as a member of the Archdiocesan Communication Committee.

"The Deanery Pastoral Council also organized different workshops. CEFFA organized a Lenten Retreat which was well attended. We are grateful to the Clergy and their Councils /Committees for their commitment to Deanery One."

-Fr. Christian Ogbanna, SDV (Dean)

2

Deanery Two Pastoral Council

"The Deanery 2 Council is made up of four priests and several parishioners of Fairview, Grimshaw, Hawk Hills, Hines Creek, Manning, Nampa, Peace River and Whitelaw. In the Deanery 2 Council, we bring together the things we have discussed from the meeting reports of our individual parish councils, looking at what projects and activities there are that we could support as a wider deanery and what we can learn from other parishes that we can apply to our own as well.

"We also discussed the challenges and obstacles that our parishes are facing, and brainstormed ways that the wider parishes of the deanery can be of help and we can support one another. One of the key efforts we have been working towards as a deanery council is to support youth ministry in the archdiocese by preparing for our first-ever altar servers' assembly for Deanery 2. This was launched in the spring of 2023 and was very successful. We are also taking a look at the Divine Renovation program of the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis and discussing ways we can incorporate its insights into the ministries of our respective parishes.

"Over the course of 2022, the Deanery 2 Council met 4 times."

-Fr. Nel Esguerra (Dean)

3

Deanery Three Pastoral Council

"Deanery 3 gathers together all the parishes and missions connected to Sexsmith, Valleyview, Beaverlodge, Spirit River, Rycroft and Grande Prairie. There are 15 members of our Deanery Pastoral Council. In 2022 we gathered 4 times, twice on Zoom and twice in person. Our meetings follow a consistent format. We begin with a time of shared prayer. Our first mandate as disciples is to pray for those we serve.

"Next on the agenda is to deal with information and anything we need to respond to from the APC and the archdiocese. The last half of our meetings are dedicated to sharing with each other the events in our parishes and how we might support each other. In 2022 a large part of our discussions was how we were dealing with the COVID restrictions and later in the year, how we were moving forward from the COVID restrictions. It was very good to gather in-person in September and November of 2022.

"The deanery meetings are always a good opportunity to stay in touch with our neighbouring parishes and share ideas and insights of ministering to the People of God."

-Fr. Remi Hebert, CSSR (Dean)



4

Deanery Four Pastoral Council

"The Deanery 4 Council is made of up members representing churches in Grouard, High Prairie, Red Earth Creek, Jousard, Slave Lake, Wabasca-Desmarias and other surrounding church communities. We met four times over 2022.

"One major concern we discussed was strategies to move beyond the restrictions of the COVID pandemic, how we can welcome people back to the Church, and help those who still do not feel comfortable returning. We also shared ideas around sacramental preparation and how we can better prepare people for the sacraments. We also discussed various concerns that arose from our individual parish pastoral councils.

"In 2022, the Deanery Council made a trip together to Wabasca in October, to make ourselves more familiar with this community and its church. The deanery also took part in a leadership workshop hosted by the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis, which was held in High Prairie."

-Fr. Lawrence Odoemena (Dean)

5

Deanery Five Pastoral Council

"The year begun with a synod and synodality call (listening gathering) from His Holiness. Our Deanery was introduced to this call by the then Executive Assistant, Lauri Friesen, who coordinated all the priests and animators from the various parishes of our deanery.

"The deanery council discussed a number of challenges and important events over the 2022 year. The month of May was catastrophic to the residents of Chateh, where huge floods misplaced and destroyed some houses. All people of Chateh were relocated to High Level for a period of three months.

"In the month of July from the 8th-10th, we had a pilgrimage at Eleske for the Indigenous people from Beaver Nation, Dene Tha, Cree and Meti settlements.

"In the same month from the 26-29th, the Lac Ste Anne pilgrimage was graced by His Holiness Pope Francis. This was built on the theme of Reconciliation. On August 4th, we had the Little Red River Cree Nations pilgrimage, where many children received their First Holy communion and Confirmation. Lastly that same year, 2022 and early 2023, the number of priests working in our Deanery reduced and we had a shortage of pastors in some parishes. Each of these items were discussed in our deanery meetings."

-Fr. Henry Kiggundi, FMH (Dean)

COUNCILS, COMMITTEES & MINISTRIES

Indigenous Pastoral Councils

The Indigenous Pastoral Councils initiative was created by Archbishop Gerard Pettipas and the Episcopal Vicar for Indigenous Peoples Fr. Bernard Akum, SDV. It is intended for church communities with a significant Indigenous population, especially those without a parish council already in place. For those churches that already have a parish council, the archdiocese has called on them to identify an Indigenous Representative within the council, to take up concerns and report on matters concerning the Indigenous peoples of their region.

Under this proposal, the chair person of each Indigenous Pastoral Council and the Indigenous representatives of each parish council will also come together to constitute a deanery-wide Indigenous Pastoral Council.

"The plan is this: issues concerning the Indigenous people are identified within the faith community of the parishes. Indigenous representatives carry these issues to the deanery level, discuss them and formalize them. These issues will then be taken to the Archdiocesan level for deliberation and implementations. I call it a 'bottom-top-approach,'" said Fr. Bernard Akum, SDV, in his draft proposal for the Indigenous Pastoral Councils initiative. "This is the idea I have on how to keep our Indigenous people involved in the spiritual and moral growth of the archdiocese."

Parish communities with active Indigenous Pastoral Councils

St. Martin Church (Desmarias/Wabasca)
Our Lady of Good Counsel (High Level)
St. Bernard Church (Grouard)



Our Lady of Guadalupe Circle Members

Archbishop Gerard Pettipas
Sophie L'Hirondelle
Irene Pirie
Hazel Vicklund
Father Bernard Akum
Lucille Partington
Wanda Beland
Marie Moreau
Claudette Okimaw
Fiona Avron
Leslie Joe Laboucan
Billy Thomas
Irene Gladue
Eva Chatelain
Allan Koski
Sister Mary Jeanne Davidson



Our Lady of Guadalupe Circle

"In 2022, I began work towards the establishing of an Our Lady of Guadalupe Circle for the Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan. I took as an inspiration what has been developed at the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB). The CCCC's Our Lady of Guadalupe Circle is made up of Indigenous and non-Indigenous members, chosen to include the membership and interests of various organizations, that share a commitment to a stronger Catholic presence and ministry to Indigenous peoples.

"With this in mind, an Our Lady of Guadalupe Circle was established for our archdiocese. Given the complexities of communication and travel, its only meetings have been held on Zoom - and that too comes with its challenges. Meetings have provided an occasion to share some thoughts on such topics as Indian Residential Schools, trust issues with the Church, the Our Father in Cree, land acknowledgement, Mass parts in Indigenous languages, and concerns about unmarked graves."

-Archbishop Gerard Pettipas, OLOG Chair

COUNCILS, COMMITTEES & MINISTRIES



Projects Approval Committee

The Projects Approval Committee (PAC) exists for the purpose of examining and approving the projects of healing and reconciliation that are presented to the Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan for funding from the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund. The IRF has been established with secure safeguards to guarantee that any programs funded by the IRF fall within the guidelines of the Fund. Funding is to be provided locally, as well as expended on with local programs. The programs are to be reviewed and approved by a local Indigenous committee. The PAC of the Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan is precisely this approval committee.

Membership is drawn from existent bodies that promote programs of healing and reconciliation among Indigenous peoples across the Archdiocese. The PAC meets only as required by the procedure of reviewing and approving appropriate programs which will then be applied for funding from the IRF. The PAC itself has no operating funds.

PAC Members

Archbishop Gerard Pettipas (co-chair)
Marge Mueller (co-chair)
Wanda Beland
Jamie Chalifoux
Omarla Cooke
Barb Couturielle
Marissa Gon
Wendy Goulet
Gilbert Hamelin
David Smith



Cemetery Committee

La Corporation Épiscopale Catholique Romaine de Grouard - the corporate name of the Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan - is the owner of 29 cemeteries. Most of these are active and connected to a parish or mission church. A few of them are active but without a direct connection to a church, and a few others are closed to additional burials.

All cemeteries in Alberta must adhere to the 'Alberta Cemeteries Act and General Regulation' that define and describe the responsibilities of the cemetery owners. The archdiocese has incorporated the legal requirements of the Provincial Cemetery Act and other duties and responsibilities in its policy on cemeteries (Policy 7.5 in the Archdiocese's Policy Manual).

An official cemetery committee has yet to be established.



Contact

If you are interested in getting involved with any of our councils or committees, **please contact the archdiocese** at 780-532-9766 or e-mail comdirector.agm@outlook.com and we will help you get in contact with the appropriate person. A contact e-mail for each of our councils and committees is also provided on our website at archgm.ca/councils-committees



COUNCILS, COMMITTEES & MINISTRIES

Office of Evangelization and Catechesis

"Despite a slow kickstart to the 2022 Faith Calendar Year, the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis had a beautiful and successful year with a number of programs carried out across parishes and schools. In general, we offered widespread faith formation programs (including new initiatives) to meet the diocesan catechetical and evangelization mandate as stipulated in the Archdiocesan Pastoral Plan. To fast-track the programs of the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis, our leadership team (Fr. Emmanuel and Sr. Connie) was strengthened by our newest member, Rudy Jerome Mallannao, brought into our office by the Archbishop and his Curia. With this new team of three, we met regularly to strategize, plan, and jointly travel to deaneries facilitating a number of seminars, workshops, retreats, etc. Below are some of the highlights of what the OEC team accomplished within 2022:

Workshop on Catechesis and Evangelization for Parish Leaders – Between the months of September and December 2022, three workshops were held for parish leaders and shareholders with a cumulative attendance of 70 people across three deaneries. The workshop's objective was to reawaken among pastoral leaders the need to prioritize grassroots catechesis and evangelization in their pastoral meetings and planning. A series of presentations were given during the three-hour workshop to resuscitate, foster and encourage grassroots catechetical formation and activities. Participants had ample time to dialogue among themselves and each meeting was greatly successful.

Sacramental Preparation Forum – This is relatively new in the diocese. The goal is to provide support to staff and volunteers in the ministry of catechesis and sacramental formation. This bi-annual information session gather was successful and we had two sessions in the Fall of 2022 with over 34 people in attendance. A major fruit from this forum is the need to have a diocesan sacramental preparation template for parishes and schools, and the need to review the catechetical resources (approved texts/media) for use across parishes and schools. There was also the urgent need to organize domestic training/formation for catechists and volunteers (including teachers for sacramental preparation).

Lay Ministry Workshops – A series of ministry leaders and volunteers workshops were conducted with over 68 in attendance (new and veterans ministry volunteers) in four deaneries in November and December 2022. Our strategy was aimed at boasting voluntary ministry initiatives in parishes and to improve ministry zeal and commitments. Hence, the workshops were a mini-refresher training about the basics of ministry and their roles in grassroots evangelization efforts in the Archdiocese. The program was well received by those who participated. Because of the warm welcome and results gained by those who participated, future plans to develop a second workshop inline with parish ministries is already set in motion.

2022 Faith Outreaches and Retreats - Something new we introduced in our faith calendar in 2022 was parish faith renewal and outreach through organized special retreats between the OEC team and interested parishes and schools. For the 2022 Advent season, we successfully held uplifting and impactful Advent Retreats in three parishes (High Level, High Prairie, and Manning) and an online retreat for HFCRD teachers. For those retreats, the chosen theme was "The King is Coming: It is Going to be Okay." We reached out to approximately 200 people through these four retreats.

Introduction of Clergy Study Day– To wrap up 2022 faith year, we introduced a platform and program that will bring priests, religious sisters and pastoral interns together for ongoing pastoral formational dialogue and support. All the necessary ground work was concluded in the Fall of 2022 and all was set for implementation in the early months of 2023."



"We are thankful to divine wisdom and graces upon our team this past year, and more blessings to our untired and hard-working chancery staff, pastors, deacons, pastoral leaders and volunteers in parishes and schools. Let us keep faith alive through good work. We look forward to God's blessings in the next faith year calendar. Stay tuned with our programs on the diocesan website and social media accounts."

-Fr. Emmanuel Ekanem, Director of the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis



COUNCILS, COMMITTEES & MINISTRIES

Office of Life and Family

"Essential to the growth and faith life of any archdiocese is the Catholic family. Our Office of Life & Family provides information and resources to help parents, grandparents, children and all those involved in the vocation to family life grow in their faith and their bonds with one another.

"Through this office we hope to assist families and lay people within the archdiocese, to better understand the Church's teachings related to family life, and to grow ever stronger in their own relationships with Christ and His Church.

"The primary role of the Office of Family and Life is to advocate and share resources at the parish level. We are in the process of forming an advisory committee to better shape and determine our efforts in the area of Life and Family. The advisory committee will include one couple from each deanery. This committee will be selected from the contacts provided at the parish level, which we are currently in the process of gathering. The role of the couple will be to help parish priests promote Life and Family activities in each deanery. If you are interested in fulfilling this role for your parish - please speak to your pastor.

"We also habitually share resources that are relevant to Catholic families and couple in our region. Over the past year we have promoted the following with pastors and parish contact persons:

- a) The week for Families in May: National Family and Life Week - Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (ccc.ca).
- b) The Sunday for the Elderly and Grand Parents: Grandparents and the Elderly - Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (ccc.ca).
- c) World Wide Marriage Encounter (wwwme.org)"

-Dn. Gerald Logan, Director of the Office of Life and Family

Office of Evangelization and Catechesis



Fr. Emmanuel Ekanem



Sr. Connie Harkin



R.J. Mallannao

Office of Life and Family



Dn. Gerald Logan

Contact

To learn more about these ministry offices, please visit archgm.ca/faith-formation/ or archgm.ca/life-family/. If you wish to get involved with the important work of these ministries, **Rev. Emmanuel Ekanem** can be contacted at director.oec.agm@gmail.com and **Dcn. Gerald Logan** can be contacted at lifefamily.agm@outlook.com.



COUNCILS, COMMITTEES & MINISTRIES

Catholic Women's League

"After 100 years of service in Canada the CWL is still strong and vital. When the CWL started in 1912 in Edmonton, the purpose was to help immigrant women arriving to our province. Now 100 years later, we are still helping immigrant and refugee families - most recently those coming to our area from Ukraine and Afghanistan.

"When so many opportunities to socialize were shut down during the pandemic, many of us felt isolated and lonely. Within the councils, creative people found ways for members to continue to meet, even though most of those meetings had to be virtual. Online offerings included guest speakers, workshops, and business meetings. 2022 saw an emerging from seclusion and getting back to meeting in person after the COVID-19 shutdowns. Over the past 3 years we connected via ZOOM, attending an Advent Retreat with Sr. Maureen Wild, SC and a spiritual day with Father Ed Eherer as well as holding online meetings and saying the rosary together with CWL members from across the province. The joy that members feel about being able to meet together again is apparent.

"The challenge for councils now is to discover what kinds of events their membership wants. Some have noted that certain offerings do not seem as popular as they were in the past so council executives are doing some research and creative thinking to plan activities that will be well-attended as tastes and memberships change.

Present CWL Councils

450 members (approx.) in 16 councils:

Beaverlodge, Berwyn, Bezanson, Fairview, Grande Prairie, Grimshaw, High Level, High Prairie, McLennan, Nampa, Peace River, Rycroft, Sexsmith, Spirit River, Valleyview, Whitelaw

At one time our archdiocese had 30 councils. Due to the closing of churches and declining membership, some councils have disbanded or amalgamated with other councils.

Diocesan Executive Members

President - Lucille Partington, Sexsmith
 Vice President/Organization - Linda Vandenberg, High Prairie
 Secretary/Communications - Donna Prevost, Fairview
 Treasurer - Shelley Mainville, Beaverlodge
 Faith Chairperson - Sr. Connie Harkin SSND, Peace River
 Service - Lynne Oe, Bezanson
 Social Justice - Mary Antonio, Bezanson
 Spiritual Advisor - Father Cyril Joseph, St. Isidore

"Councils operate under the new structure of the Three Pillars of our organization: faith, service and social justice and the two year national theme of 'Catholic and Living It!' In addressing these three pillars, members engage in group prayer, the study of Church teachings and papal encyclicals, hold retreat days, memorial services for deceased members, and other efforts. Members support our Catholic schools by giving gifts to First Communion, Confirmation candidates and to graduates and reading with classes. Members assist at Mass and are involved in all ministries including children's liturgy. CWL councils participated in the synodal discussions, support our priests and seminarians, Camp St. Martin and local youth groups as well as women's shelters. Members handed out Gratitude Cards to our front-line workers in appreciation for all they did during COVID-19 and continue to do for us all. Members meet with their local MLA to discuss issues such as pro-life, euthanasia, human trafficking and palliative care, support food banks, and much more.

"The Catholic Women's League is the core of many of our parishes and members are definitely a treasure and a huge asset to the parish as a whole. Over the years, it was the money raised by CWL chicken suppers that built churches in our diocese. The members continue to clean, decorate, supply refreshments for parish events, give families funeral support, and provide leadership roles on parish councils and partake in all ministries. These amazing women work behind the scenes facilitating opportunities for their members to gather, virtually or in-person, and enjoy the wellness benefits of social interaction and growth in our faith journey."

-Donna Prevost, Communications Chairperson with the Diocesan CWL



COUNCILS, COMMITTEES & MINISTRIES

Knights of Columbus

"The Knights of Columbus are the world's largest Catholic fraternal service organisation with over two million members around the world and 20,000 members in Alberta-North West Territories. Membership in this worldwide fraternal organization will give you the opportunity to give back to your community and the ability to grow in your faith.

"The Knights are known as 'the strong right arm of the Catholic Church' and the right arm of parish priests. We have always been firmly united with the Pope, the Vicar of Christ. We stand with our bishops, support our priests, and aid in the formation of seminarians and religious. We strengthen the family, the domestic church, helping men build strong marriages and raise faithful children. We strive to be the family's first line of defense, encouraging men to embrace their vocation to heroic generosity and self-sacrifice. These are just some of the reasons to become a Knight of Columbus.

"The Knights of Columbus is a great source of volunteers for your parish and you have probably seen many members at your parish activities; but we are not merely volunteers. We are servants of Christ Jesus who see His face in those whom we serve. Ours is a charity that evangelizes. Ours is a charity that brings people to faith, even as it springs from our own. I believe that each man today can benefit from membership in this fine group."

-Pat DeLuca, Fraternal Benefits Advisor of the Alberta-NWT KofC, Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan

Present Knights of Columbus Councils

- Falher:** 78 members, established 1947
- Fairview:** 70 members, established 1948
- Grande Prairie:** 299 members, established 1949
- Manning:** 33 members, established 1954
- Grimshaw:** 22 members, established 1962
- Peace River:** 53 members, established 1966

- Spirit River:** 33 members, established 1975
- Valleyview:** 25 members, established 1983
- Beaverlodge:** 22 members, established 1995
- McLennan/High Prairie:** 33 members, established 2008
- High Level:** 32 members, established 2009
- Grouard Assembly (4th Degree):** 153 members, established 1961

Total active archdiocesan members: **700**

4th Degree Knighthood

"As the Faithful Navigator of the 4th degree of the Knights of Columbus Assembly 0008, the phrase 'Christ has Risen' serves as a reminder of the importance of faith, hope, and love for both me and my family. Ultimately, it is a reminder that Christ's resurrection is not just a historical event, but a call to action to live a life of faith and service. As a devout Catholic, I seek to model the faith and ensure that my family also engages with the teachings of the Church. As a member of the Knights of Columbus, I work to embody these principles and seek to pass them on to future generations. Through reflection on the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the values of the Knights of Columbus, I hope to instill a sense of purpose, compassion, and reverence for service in my family, especially my grandchildren. It is my hope and prayer that my grandchildren will embrace these teachings, and in turn, continue to promote the values of charity, unity, and fraternity that the Knights of Columbus stand for.

"Assembly Members are called to a higher level of action. The 4th degree of the Knights of Columbus embodies the adage "For God and For Country". This holds true as all of us put God first in our lives and we defend the values of our country and our faith. We invite all members of the Knights of Columbus of the Archdiocese to advance their membership to the highest pinnacle that the order offers."

-Hervey Chabot, 4th Degree Knight, Faithful Navigator with the Grouard Assembly 0008

Development & Peace- Caritas Canada

"The past year has seen a number of activities take place that have kept us locally involved with Development & Peace occupied. Thankfully, we were able to participate in-person for most of them, though we chose to keep the online format for our webinars and workshops, wherever possible, because it has made such a difference in accessibility for those farther away from event venues. For the first time in years we have added new members to our archdiocesan group, with 23 new members from various parishes, making a total of about 120 members in this archdiocese. Some of those new members also stepped up to be part of the D+P/Social Justice Committee. We are regularly joined in our monthly meetings by Archbishop Gerry and consider this committee to be blessed to have his thoughtful presence with us as we discuss upcoming plans and events which drive us forward on the journey to a world more receptive to justice and peace for all peoples.

"In October 2022, several of us took part in the Western Conference for Social Justice in Kelowna. This is sponsored annually by the Bishops of Western Canada and has 22 member dioceses/archdioceses. Sessions on this weekend included topics such as the Laudato Si Action Plan; presentations by several bishops on TRC calls to action and their diocesan responses; a talk on Catholic Social Teaching and receptivity to it by the director of Catholic Conscience. This weekend event is a wonderful opportunity to network with participants from other dioceses in Western Canada.

"Other activities that we organized in the past year included an online retreat by Sr Maureen Wild, SC, in Advent of 2022, to mark and celebrate the beatification of Father Rutilio Grande, SJ (and others) who were martyred in El Salvador during the episcopacy of St Oscar Romero in the 1980s.

"Online and in-person workshops were held on on the D+P campaigns of Fall Action 2022 and Share Lent 2023. The theme has been Stand for the Land. We learned especially about land defenders and D+P partners in the Global South whose life works have been standing up to big corporations operating on their lands and causing untold damage to land, water, and the lives of defenders. This theme is one under the umbrella of 'Create Hope' which will inform and guide all the D+P campaigns for the next 5 years.

"We are grateful for the support of many people throughout the archdiocese in this work for justice and peace. Indeed, it cannot be accomplished without each one of us on board. All our talents and energies are needed."

-Mia Klein-Gebbinck, Archdiocesan Leader of Development and Peace-Caritas Canada

D&P/Social Justice Committee

Mia Klein-Gebbinck

Josy Burrough

Helen MacDonald

Maura Good

Mary St Hilaire

Rae Wenigar

Carey Mruk

Tim Macdonald

GrACE - Grateful Advocates for Catholic Education

GrACE is a partnership of stakeholders and trustees resolutely committed to Catholic education within the province of Alberta. There are members of GrACE across the archdiocese, made chiefly of the trustees in each of our Catholic school districts. The goal of GrACE is to advocate for publicly-funded Catholic education across Alberta. It is supported by the Alberta Bishops, Alberta Catholic School Trustees, and Catholic School Superintendents of Alberta.



"We have participated in the GrACE journey this past 2022-23 year in the following ways: There is a GrACE group established in each of our school communities. We have fulfilled our Division commitment by establishing a GrACE group with the St. Paul Parish in High Prairie late last Spring with a very well attended initial GrACE event at the host site of St. Andrew's School. Each of our Holy Family Catholic Schools Trustees sit as a school division representative with their respective Parish Pastoral Councils. At the monthly PPC meetings we trustees share GrACE updates, primarily from received GrACE newsletters. In some Parishes, the GrACE newsletters are also shared through the locally formed GrACE group email network. Our Board of Trustees have participated in the annual GrACE Summits and virtual special meetings hosted by GrACE. This past year, the parish of St. Rita's, Valleyview GrACE Group hosted an 'Evening of GrACE' with parishioner and author Lenoard McClland who led participants through a selection of readings of his latest literary work. The GrACE event was very successful with proceeds going to a GrACE-affiliated charity. Our parish groups are eagerly anticipating the next phase of GrACE with its new Executive Director Catherine Mallon."

-John Kuran, Holy Family Catholic Regional Division Trustee/GrACE Member

UNDERSTAND THE ARCHBISHOP'S COAT OF ARMS

In accordance with Roman Catholic heraldic tradition, the Coat of Arms of Archbishop Geard Pettipas, Metropolitan Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan, consists of a shield, a golden processional cross placed behind the shield, a green hat or “galero” with tassels, a pallium with small black crosses, and a scroll on which is inscribed his personal motto. It was designed by Renato Poletti of Rome.

The two transversal bars on the processional cross indicate the rank of archbishop, as do the four rows of tassels attached to the galero and its color: green. The pallium is only worn by an archbishop and is conferred on him by the pope. The Archbishop's personal motto is based on 1 Thessalonians 4:3: “God's will is that you be holy.”



The symbols on the shield were chosen by Archbishop Pettipas and have particular religious, historical, familial and geographic significance.

The cross with sponge and spear on either side come from the Coat of Arms of the Redemptorist Congregation to which Archbishop Pettipas belongs. The color silver represents transparency, justice and truth. The mount on which the cross stands represents Golgotha; its color green to recall Hope, the virtue which holds us in our pilgrimage towards salvation.

The five pointed star comes from the flag of Acadia and represents the Assumption of Mary, Patroness of the Acadian people who are the roots of the Archbishop's family. The color blue symbolizes the separation from worldly values and the ascent of the soul toward God – from the things of the earth towards the sky. The red Scottish lion is the symbol of Nova Scotia, birthplace of the Archbishop. The color gold represents the most noble metal, and stands for the first virtue: Faith, for with Faith we believe the Lord's message of Love.

In this section, we make note of some of the important events and initiatives that occurred in the Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan over the 2022 year.

Listening Gatherings for Synodality

In the leadup to the upcoming Synod on Synodality in Rome, the Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan, alongside all other dioceses in Canada and the wider world, took part in a series of listening sessions at the local church and community level, taking place from January to April of 2022. Each gathering began with the question: **“A synodal Church, in announcing the Gospel, ‘journeys together’: How is this ‘journeying together’ happening today in your particular Church? What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our ‘journeying together’?”** Then, participants would write down their thoughts, present them to their group without interruption, and from there the gathering would move into a wider discussion.

The protocol for the listening gatherings were established by the archdiocese’s synod team: Lauri Friesen, Fr. Ed Eherer, CSsR and Kevin Walker. In total, the archdiocese held approximately 55 listening gatherings, held in 23 communities and attended by more than 275 people. A synthesis report was prepared and submitted to the bishops of Alberta and Northwest Territories, who produced afterward their own synthesis report for the CCCB.



Closing Mass for the Year of St. Joseph

The archdiocese celebrated a Mass to close out the Archdiocesan Year of St. Joseph on the saint’s feast day - March 19th. The Mass was hosted at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Spirit River, and brought together priests and parishioners from across the archdiocese – including as far north as John D’or Prairie.

This brought to an end a year-long pilgrimage the archdiocese had arranged to the three St. Joseph Churches in the archdiocese – in Grande Prairie, John D’or Prairie and Spirit River.



Archdiocesan fundraising efforts for the IRF

In February of 2022, the Archdiocese announced their plans to devote the annual Ash Wednesday Collection, which usually goes to funding projects in our mission churches, to instead go towards our contribution to the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund (IRF) established by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. The Archdiocese has been allocated to raise \$165,000 of this \$30 million fund from 2022-2027.

In 2022, Archbishop Pettipas also established the Projects Approval Committee to select projects, meets with organizations and discuss other efforts that funds from the IRF can go towards to help the First Nations and Metis communities of our region.



Archbishop's Visitation in Deanery 2

Archbishop Pettipas' yearly deanery visitation was able to return in 2022, with the end of COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. From April 30th to May 15th, the visitation took place in Deanery 2, where the archbishop visited with the communities of Peace River, Fairview, Manning, Grimshaw, and other surrounding areas of the deanery. He took time to visit each Catholic school, church, seniors home and even some workplaces of parishioners - like the Boucher Bros. Lumber Mill in Nampa and a parishioner's elk and bison farm in Manning.



Our Lady of the Cape statue tours the archdiocese

The statue of Our Lady of the Cape, from Cap-de-la-Madeleine, Quebec, travelled throughout the Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan in June of 2022, visiting several church communities and Catholic schools. We brought her to seven schools, six churches and one nursing home, in the communities of Grande Prairie, Beaverlodge, Sexsmith, Spirit River, Grimshaw, Peace River, McLennan, High Prairie and Girouxville. Msgr. Charles Lavoie brought the statue to each of these locations, providing with it a presentation on the Canadian Marian miracle associated with Our Lady of the Cape. The statue was then delivered to the Archdiocese of Vancouver.

Grande Prairie Elder joins Rome delegation

Grande Prairie Metis elder Angie Crerar was one of several Indigenous persons and former residential school students who took part in the historic Indigenous Delegation to Rome to meet with Pope Francis, taking place at the Vatican from March 28th to April 1st. During this delegation, the group was given several private audiences with the Pope as well as a closing public address from the Pontiff. The delegation led to **Pope Francis' pilgrimage to Canada** that summer, from July 24th to 29th, which included visits to several locations in Alberta - in Edmonton, Mackwacis and Lac Ste Anne. Many parishioners, priests and others from the Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan made their way to these locations to attend these historic events with the Holy Father.



Efforts across the archdiocese in refugee support and resettlement

Parishioners and church communities of the archdiocese are involved in an assortment of volunteer efforts to help refugee families and individuals settle into the Peace Country each year. From October 2021 to the end of October 2022, the St. Joseph's Refugee Committee in Grande Prairie co-sponsored a six-member family from Somalia and helped them resettle in the Grande Prairie community. The family fled Somalia, a country ravished by both civil war and food shortages, and spent several years in both Saudi Arabia and Uganda before arriving in Canada. This was the first time the committee had taken part in a co-sponsorship, and this co-sponsorship was done with a Somalian family member already residing in Grande Prairie. It took three years, from application until arrival, to bring this sponsorship to completion.

With the cooperation of volunteers from St. Joseph's Parish and other communities around the archdiocese, much financial aid and donated gift cards were given to the refugee family. The St. Joseph's Refugee Committee also gave much hands-on assistance, helping family members prepare for schooling, language classes, health care, getting furniture, applying for jobs, and with general orientation into the community.



Also in 2022, the refugee committee helped with the dissemination of information when Grande Prairie Rotary Club began a program to bring Ukrainian refugees to the city. Through parish bulletins and other outreach, several parishioners in Grande Prairie were involved with efforts to host Ukrainian families and individuals in their homes, act as volunteer drivers, and more.

In the fall of 2022, parishioners and CWL councils with Immaculate Conception Church in Sexsmith, Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Bezanson and St. Mary's Church in Beaverlodge provided much support to a variety of government-assisted refugees – helping 37 Afghanistan refugees and 56 Ukrainian refugees that year. Their volunteer efforts included the donation of furniture, household items, and food to these families as they resettled in the Peace Country region. This effort was spearheaded by Sexsmith parishioner and Diocesan CWL President Lucille Partington.

Agreement made with local band to rebuild Fox Lake church

On the 8th of July, 2022, Archbishop Gerard Pettipas, CSsR, Msgr. Charles Lavoie, PH, Paulette Carrier and Fr. Andrew Simiiyu, FMH met with Chief Conroy Sewepagaham and band council members of the Little Red River First Nations to discuss the building of a new church in Fox Lake.

The former Little Flower Mission Church was destroyed by an electrical fire in the summer of 2020.

They came to a preliminary agreement that the band would construct a new church for the Fox Lake community, structured like the teepee-designed church in John D'or Prairie. However, with the recent devastation of the wildfire that ravaged Fox Lake in 2023, it is difficult to determine a deadline for when this new church's construction will begin.



Camp St. Martin

August of 2022 marked the return of Camp St. Martin after a two-year absence due to pandemic restrictions. The Catholic summer camp, which began in 2013, provides three weeks of fun, fellowship and spiritual growth for young people across the Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan.

Taking place at Camp Artaban near Peace River and Grimshaw, it has separate camps for elementary, junior high and high school students, as well as a closing family camp weekend.

Returning for the first time since 2019, there were just under 100 registrations for the 2022 camp season, including the highest number of registrations ever received for their junior high week. The 2022 camp season was led by Fr. Eucharius Ndzefemiti, as well as seminarians and religious workers - Thomas Wollis, Ryan Beaupre, Paul Edo-Aranmude, and Rudy Jerome Mallannao. The Archdiocese hopes to make Camp St. Martin a continuing and growing success.



Donnelly Parish Celebrates Centennial

In December of 2022, the Catholic community of Donnelly celebrated their 100 year anniversary for their church - the Paroisse Sacre-Coeur. The celebrations included Mass and dinner, presentations to honour long-time residents and volunteers, and various displays of the church community's rich history. A model village was built and put on display, showing what Donnelly would have looked like in 1922 with its original log chapel, general store and farms.

At the Mass, some of the church's oldest living parishioners took part in the procession as candle and cross bearers. As one of several French Catholic settlements in the region, the Catholic faith was central to life in Donnelly, and many religious vocations came out of Donnelly over the past century.



Archbishop's Dinner livestreamed from St. Joseph parish hall

The 2022 livestreamed Archbishop's Dinner was held on Nov. 4th at St. Joseph Church's Tranquille Hall in Grande Prairie, with a two-camera set-up, a live audience, special guests appearing both in person and via Zoom from across the archdiocese, a detailed talk on Bishop Grouard and the history of the archdiocese, and lively cooking tips and anecdotes from Archbishop Pettipas and his co-host Fr. Remi Hebert.

For the dinner's auction, beautiful religious artwork, icons, crucifixes, devotionals, health products, quilts, gadgets and tools, and much, much more were donated. Through the auction and other donations, \$5,133 was raised.

We especially thank April Fogle for helping us with our livestream and ambitious technical needs, and a special thanks to everyone who took the time to watch the show.





Looking Ahead

Upcoming projects for the Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan

In last year's "**Looking Ahead**" section, I drew your attention to a few items of interest to watch for. Let me speak first of these, and what headway has been made. Given that we are looking towards the future in this closing reflection, in these comments I am writing not so much from a 2022 perspective but from a 2023 perspective.

St. Bernard Church & Little Flower Mission rebuilds

As you all know, this beautiful, historic church was tragically destroyed by arson in 2023. There will obviously be no restoration of St. Bernard's, but the archdiocese is already developing plans for the building of a new church to serve the needs of Grouard and surrounding communities. More will be announced on this initiative in the future. As well, we hope to see further work in rebuilding Little Flower Mission in Fox Lake.

Camp St. Martin

I and others in the chancery attended a meeting in 2023 with Camp Artaban committee members and other stakeholders. We are grateful for what we learned about the stability of Camp Artaban, and made the offer of a church building. We hope to continue contributing to the sustenance and care of this campgrounds and to continue growing our annual archdiocesan camp.

Cathedral hall

I spoke in the last annual report about needs to improve the cathedral hall at St. John the Baptist Church in McLennan. I look forward to progress on this initiative in late 2023 and into 2024.

Archbishop's Appeal & Major Gifts campaign

Kevin Walker and I conducted some valuable deanery meetings in late 2022/early 2023. Our next step in a long process we are calling "*Church Fully Alive!*" is a financial campaign for the benefit of our many parishes. With input from our Finance Council and Communications Office, we are currently working with persons across the archdiocese in preparing an important video to initiate this campaign. We are also anticipating an upcoming Major Gifts campaign to benefit the archdiocese. More on that in the future.

Substantial clergy changes

Many priests who have served us for years are being called back to their religious communities. In 2023 alone, five religious priests left the archdiocese. We are having to invite many other priests to come to our archdiocese, although this is happening at a slower pace than I would wish. We have no control over the issuance of visa by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). This may cause a mix of both grief (if you really liked the priest you had) and frustration (waiting for a new priest to arrive). My only consolation is that this is the Lord's work. We cannot control or rush God.



Photo courtesy of Ste, Marie Catholic School, Spirit River



Looking Ahead

Upcoming projects for the Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan



Archbishop Pettipas preaches during the Chrism Mass at St. John the Baptist Cathedral, McLennan.

Church Fully Alive!

I look forward to continuing to build up the communities of the faithful in our archdiocese, in the areas of time, talent and treasure. As Kevin Walker and I met with the pastors and lay faithful in the deaneries, we heard some reflections that didn't totally surprise us, but did confirm some trends and concerns:

1. **Youth Ministry and Young Families:** some of this is envisioned in our youth ministry strategy, Sunday Celebrations of the Liturgy of the Word for Children, Camp St. Martin and Discovery
2. **Sacramental Vitality & Rejuvenation:** increased participation of the faithful at Sunday Mass, and liturgical ministries
3. **Social Mission:** the parishes' engagement in the needs of the poor and disadvantaged, at home and abroad
4. **Engaging Ethnic Communities:** Indigenous communities and recent immigrants' engagement in the local parishes' gifts and needs
5. **Rationalization:** The potential rationalization of parishes

We have to get this right, People of God - all of us.
We all have a part to play!

Future ordinations

We presently have two seminarians in our archdiocese, Paul Edo-Aranmude, from Nigeria, and Thomas Wollis from Peace River, who have been making progress towards ordination. We also have hired two young men from the Philippines, RJ Mallannao and Brylle Buenaventura, who also express interest in the priesthood in our diocese. I ask God to confirm His call of these candidates as priests among us over the coming years.

Special thanks

As most of you likely know, I was recently diagnosed with prostate cancer earlier this year. I thank you for all the prayers I have received. As many of you know who have dealt with prostate cancer in your own lives, this is a treatable cancer if caught early. I am hopeful for a positive outcome from my treatments. Your prayers and support are a great comfort to me.

+ Gerard Pettipas, arch.

Archbishop Gerard Pettipas, CSsR
Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan, Sept. 2023





Donations

*In the parlance of modern business language, our archdiocese is a “non-profit” organization. This means, in part, that we rely heavily on donations. **Everything that we have, we have been given.** Whatever activities, opportunities or contributions our archdiocese can provide, it is thanks to the generosity of you and others that we are able to do so.*

*We hope this report has given you a general idea of where our archdiocese stands and where we are going. One of the great challenges of our archdiocese is that, geographically, we are immensely large - one of the largest in Canada in fact - but in population we are quite small. It is with great reliance on the remarkable talent, dedication and charity of our people that we are able to get anything done. **We thank you for your time, talent and treasure.** The Lord promised to send His Holy Spirit to teach us, guide us and protect us through the trials of life. We can say with gratitude that the Lord has blessed us greatly through the many challenges the archdiocese has faced over the years.*



How to donate to the Archdiocese

If you would like to donate to the Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan, there are many ways for you to do so.

Your local parish and church community needs your support first and foremost. You can donate to your parish through the Sunday collection, registering through PAD, and through online donations.

By clicking the bright red **“DONATE”** button on our website – www.archgm.ca – you will be able to donate both to your local church and to the archdiocese. All options are available and listed for you there. You can also contact the archdiocese and specify if there is something particular you would like your donation to go towards.

If you have any comments or suggestions related to our 2022 Annual Report and any future reports, you can contact our Communications Office at comdirector.agm@outlook.com.

May God bless you and your family over the coming year!