



Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon

ANNUAL REPORT

2019-2020

Proclaim Christ & God's Kingdom Today



A Message from the Most Reverend

Bishop Mark A. Hagemoen

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This Annual Report covers the 2019-2020 fiscal and ministry year, which began so hopefully with the launch of our diocesan Pastoral Plan in the fall of 2019 and which ended in the midst of the global pandemic that has changed so many things in our lives, our ministries and our outreach.

Before and during the challenges of the global COVID-19 pandemic in this 2019-2020 period, our mission to Proclaim Christ and God’s Kingdom Today has not changed or wavered. The Church has not stopped or closed – in fact during this tragedy we have seen God’s grace inspire many new insights and opportunities for outreach.

During the 2019-2020 year we saw three main themes unfold, namely:

- **PASTORAL PLAN** - The launch of a three-year diocesan Pastoral Plan with its identified mission to “Proclaim Christ and God’s Kingdom Today” and the new initiatives and renewed focus resulting from the proclaimed priorities of the plan introduced across the diocese starting in September 2019.

- **SAFEGUARDING** - The ongoing efforts to strengthen safeguarding and the Covenant of Care in our diocese, parishes and ministries, with training sessions, updates to policy, and the March 15, 2020 release of a Safeguarding Action Plan, entitled “Safer Church, Safer Communities,” which includes 20 safeguarding commitments to prevent and respond to abuse.

- **COVID-19 RESPONSE** – The efforts that followed the March to May 2020 shutdown of worship gatherings under public health orders and restrictions, which saw our diocese and our parishes diligently and creatively using new methods of communicating and providing outreach, the increasing

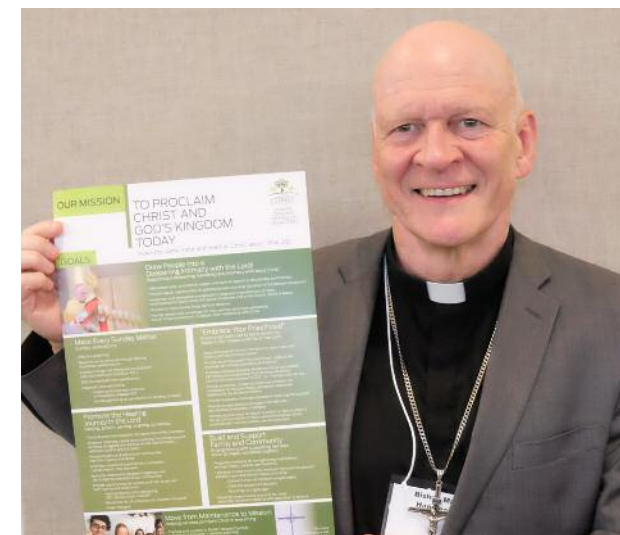
use of live-streaming and other technology, as well as ongoing efforts to maintain church operations during the shutdown, including accessing government funding assistance to maintain staffing levels.

In this Annual Report you will see examples of ministry and services provided in our diocese as together we answered our call to Proclaim Christ.

I would also note that a number of initiatives have since come to fruition past the 2019-2020 scope of this report, including: the arrival of the Verbum Dei Sisters to provide ministry in our diocese, the introduction of an Academic Vocation Program and of an Indigenous Pastoral and Lay Leadership Education Program, a change in the age of confirmation of children from Grade 2 to Grade 6, the introduction of a new format for the Adult Faith Enrichment program and the hiring of an Evangelization and Mission leader, as well as the continuation of online events, communication and outreach.

I am profoundly grateful for the ongoing generous and faithful support of the people of God in this diocese and for the solidarity and zeal that I have witnessed every day during the scope of this report and beyond. I recognize that I speak this message of hope given that our country and our world face many challenges to the message and vision of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Together we go forward into 2021, seeking and trusting in God to guide us through the challenges of this pandemic and form us as His disciples who Proclaim Christ to a hungry and searching world.



+ Mark A. Hagemoen
Bishop of Saskatoon

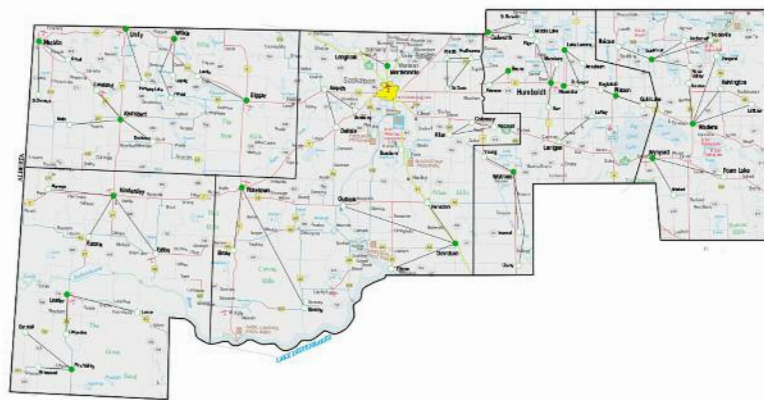


Our Diocese: An overview

In 1933 the Vatican announced that a new Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon was to be established, and on March 19, 1934, the official proclamation establishing the new diocese was read, with Bishop Gerald Murray, CSsR, of Victoria serving as the first bishop from 1934-1944.

Other bishops serving our diocese have been: Bishop Philip Pocock (1944-1951), Bishop Francis Klein (1952-1967), Bishop James Mahoney (1967-1995), Bishop James Weisgerber (1996-2000), Bishop Albert LeGatt (2001-2009), and Bishop Donald Bolen (2010-2016). Bishop Mark Andrew Hagemoen was installed as the eighth bishop of Saskatoon on Nov. 23, 2017.

In September 1998, changes to the boundaries of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon came into effect, with the territory of St. Peter's Abbey, Muenster added to the diocese, along with a number of parishes that were previously in the Diocese of Gravelbourg and the Archdiocese of Regina. The present area of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon covers 44,800 square kilometres and the estimated number of Catholics in the diocese is 95,370.



Eatonia Deanery

includes parishes located at Burstall, Dodslan, Eatonia, Eston, Fox Valley, Kindersley, Lancer, Leader, Liebenthal, Marengo, and Richmond.

Kerrobert Deanery

includes parishes located at Biggar, Denzil, Handel, Kerrobert, Landis, Leipzig, Luseland, Macklin, Major, St. Donatus, Tramping Lake, Unity, and Wilkie.

Saskatoon Rural Deanery

includes parishes located at Allan, Asquith, Beechy, Colonsay, Davidson, Dundurn, Elbow, Elrose, Kenaston, Langham, Outlook, Martensville, Prud'homme, Rosetown, St. Denis, Vanscoy, Viscount and Vonda.

Saskatoon City Deanery

includes parishes located in the city of Saskatoon: Cathedral of the Holy Family, Holy Spirit, Our Lady of Czestochowa, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Anne, St. Augustine, St. Francis Xavier, St. John Bosco, St. Joseph, St. Mary, St. Michael, St. Patrick, St. Paul Co-Cathedral, St. Peter the Apostle, St. Philip Neri, St. Thomas More, and Sts-Martyrs-Canadiens.

Humboldt Deanery

includes parishes located at Annaheim, Bruno, Burr, Cudworth, Englefeld, Humboldt, Lake Lenore, Lanigan, LeRoy, Middle Lake, Muenster, Naicam, Peterson, Pilger, Quill Lake, St. Benedict, St. Gregor, Watrous, Watson, and Young.

Wadena Deanery

includes parishes located at Archerwill, Foam Lake, Fosston, Kelvington, Lintlaw, Nobleville, Perigord, Rose Valley, St. Front, Wadena, Wishart, and Wynyard.



95,370 Catholics

94 Parishes

88 Priests

5 Deacons

109 Religious Sisters

7 Religious Brothers

Sacraments (2019)

902 Baptisms

721 Confirmations

755 First Communions

103 Catechumens (RCIA)

147 Marriages

Catholic partners

- 44 Catholic Elementary Schools / 7 Catholic High Schools
(Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools in Saskatoon, Humboldt, Biggar, Martensville and Warman; Light of Christ Catholic School in Unity)
- 2 Catholic Colleges
(St. Thomas More College, Saskatoon; St. Peter's College, Muenster)
- 1 Catholic School of Faith & Learning
(St. Therese Institute, Bruno)
- 1 Catholic Hospital
(St. Paul's Hospital, Saskatoon)
- 5 Catholic homes for the aged
(Emmanuel Care facilities in our diocese: St. Joseph Care Home, Macklin; St. Ann's Home, Saskatoon; Samaritan Place, Saskatoon; Trinity Manor, Saskatoon; and St. Angela Merici, Saskatoon)



Proclaim Christ: Pastoral Plan launched for diocese

A three-year Pastoral Plan for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon focused on the mission of proclaiming Jesus Christ was launched by Bishop Mark Hagemoen in the fall of 2019.

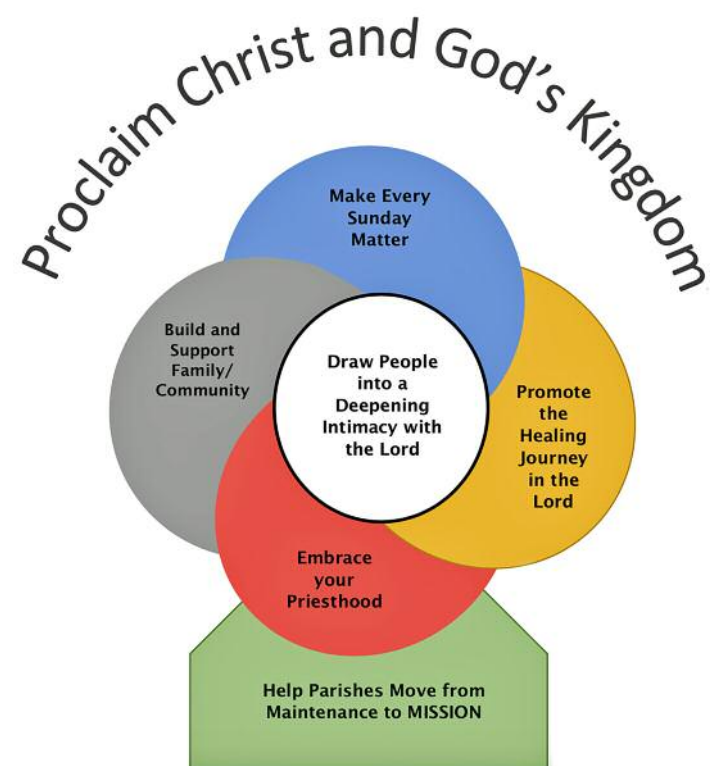
"Evangelization must permeate everything we do – everything we do proclaims Christ and God's Kingdom," said Bishop Hagemoen, announcing the promulgation and rolling out of the new Pastoral Plan at the 2019 diocesan Administration Day.

The bishop challenged Pastors, Parish Life Directors, ministry leaders and parish representatives from across the Diocese of Saskatoon to use the proposed three-year plan as a way to reflect upon strengths, gaps, and new directions.

The mission statement "Proclaim Christ and God's Kingdom Today" is identified in the Pastoral Plan, along with six priorities -- beginning first and foremost with: "Draw People into a Deepening Intimacy with the Lord."

"Whether it is a parish of five families, or 15,000, the task and the mission of Christ is fundamentally the same," he said. "Ultimately, everything must involve the call to evangelization."

The plan was developed through an eight-month planning process undertaken by the Diocesan Pastoral Council, which includes representatives from parishes of all sizes from across the diocese, as well as pastors, religious, and other leaders.



Our Pastoral Plan - Priorities and goals

Proclaim Christ and God's Kingdom Today



Draw People into a Deepening Intimacy with the Lord!
Supporting a deepening friendship and intimacy with Jesus Christ

- Help people pray; and provide support and tools for growth in discipleship and holiness
- Provide regular opportunities for gathered prayer, including Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.
- Implement and strengthen evangelization programs in parishes and schools, emphasizing the Sacraments; the Sacred Scriptures; Life in the Church; Works of Mercy
- Provide for more lay and clergy spiritual directors
- Provide retreats and workshops for men, women, and youth addressing the art of accompaniment, to deepen their relationship with Christ

Make Every Sunday Matter
Sunday celebrations

- Effective preaching
- Beautiful music: promote through training, workshops, performances
- Excellent liturgy: *full and active participation!* (see *Sacrosanctum Concilium*: #14)
- Effective feedback from parishioners
- Hospitality and welcoming
 - Collect and share best practices re: hospitality, engagement
 - Sunday gathering as opportunity for sending, outreach

“Embrace Your Priesthood”
Discerning God's call to each person to share in the mission and life of the Lord

- Equip and support Church members re: ways to provide ministry and service in our parish
- Provide vocations support for priesthood, religious life, marriage, lay ministry leadership and service
- Promote discipleship paths: Madonna House Apostolate; NET Ministries; FacetoFace; Pure Witness Ministries; Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO); St. Therese Institute, etc.
- Provide academic, human and spiritual formation for candidates for the priesthood, permanent diaconate, religious life, lay ecclesial ministry
- Provide responsive marriage preparation and ongoing support
- Provide strong catechetical support for effective sacramental preparation strategies

Promote the Healing Journey in the Lord
Healing, growth, serving, ongoing conversion

- Promote and make available the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Promote “listening, caring, accompanying” to provide support for those struggling with emotional and mental health, addictions and/or grief recovery
- Provide healthy and safe church communities, free from trauma and abuse
- Promote network of local Catholic counsellors, Catholic health care providers
- Build the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples of our communities
- Provide opportunities for women and men to recover from trauma and dysfunction
 - Healing opportunities addressing TRC Calls to Action, UNDRIP
 - Reverence for Life initiatives (ex. Rachel's Vineyard)
 - Anger and grief

Build and Support Family and Community
Strengthening and supporting families and marriages, vocations support

- Programs, initiatives for strengthening relationships among children, parents, grandparents
- Help parents and community members (schools, lay groups) address important relevant topics, including:
 - Children's Internet and technologies safety
 - Child and adolescent sexuality
 - Parenting in a digital age
- Establish programs and supports for crises: especially for persons dealing with separation or divorce



Move from Maintenance to Mission
Helping parishes proclaim Christ in everything

- Training and support to Parish Pastoral Councils and Finance Councils – *pastoral planning*
- Training and support to parish ministries: children, youth, adults, seniors
- Addressing features of rural communities
- Best Human Resources practices 'tool kit' to support and develop parish employees and volunteers
- Best financial and administrative practices 'tool kit' for parishes



For more information visit rcdos.ca/missionandgoals

Growing in Faith: Deepening Intimacy with the Lord



Christian Initiation Forming missionary disciples

At the Rite of Election on the first Sunday of Lent March 1, 2020, Bishop Mark Hagemoen blessed 47 catechumens from across the Diocese of Saskatoon who were preparing to be baptized in the Catholic Church. The newly-elect signed their names in the Book of the Elect during the diocesan celebration. The bishop also blessed 21 already-baptized candidates who were preparing to join the Catholic Church.

Proclaiming Christ: Making Every Sunday Matter



Sunday experience changes with pandemic

The importance of Sunday worship is recognized among the priorities of the diocesan Pastoral Plan. During 2019-2020 familiar features of gathering together for the Eucharist were disrupted by the global pandemic declared in March 2020, with public worship first suspended for several weeks, then slowly resuming with limits on numbers and other measures to help prevent the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus. In spite of all the challenges, worship and outreach continued, with parishes and ministries using technology and creativity to find ways to continue to connect and to pray together.



Proclaiming Christ: *Providing public witness in spite of shutdown*

“The Church never stops.”

- Bishop Mark Hagemoen



Outdoor cross

With public celebration of Easter 2020 liturgies an impossibility because of COVID-19, Bishop Mark Hagemoen initiated a unique project. A log cross was constructed and raised on the grounds of the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon, and a previously-carved wooden figure of the crucified Christ was placed on the rough-hewn wood. From Holy Thursday to Easter Monday 2020, the cross stood on the grounds, with many driving by, stopping to pray and to venerate the cross.

Members of the Knights of Columbus held vigil, monitoring traffic and ensuring that all physical distancing requirements were met.



Prayer and worship: *Connecting in creative ways during a time of pandemic*



Prayers overhead

Shortly after the global pandemic was declared in March 2020, Fr. Matthew Ramsay of St. Anne Parish Saskatoon flew over the city with the Blessed Sacrament and a statue of Our Lady of Fatima (*above*), praying for all those affected by COVID-19. From parish “phoning trees” to sacramental preparation via Zoom, faith communities found innovative ways to stay connected and to pray together during COVID-19.



Fr. Darryl Millette offered confession in the parking lot at Holy Spirit Parish in Saskatoon.

COVID-19 assistance

Throughout the pandemic, the diocesan Liturgy Commission, under the leadership of Bishop Mark Hagemoen, has provided [direction and guidelines related to public worship](#). As well, the diocesan Finance Office worked diligently to assist parishes in applying for government assistance to offset declining collections as public worship was affected.

A diocesan [website for live-streaming of Mass](#) was quickly established, and the Diocese of Saskatoon Catholic Foundation set up an [online “parish giving” service](#) for directing donations.



Mass with Bishop Hagemoen live-streamed from St. Therese Institute in Bruno – one of many celebrations in the diocese shared online since the start of the pandemic.

Growing in Faith: *Evangelization and Catechesis*



Confirmation and First Eucharist

The spring 2020 Confirmation and First Holy Eucharist season was disrupted by the global COVID-19 pandemic, with gathering for public worship suspended from mid-March to mid-May. Like schools in the province, some parishes in the diocese switched to “distance learning” method and Zoom meetings for catechism classes and sacramental preparation, with scaled-down celebrations of the sacraments held for children once the numbers permitted to gather slowly increased.



The Rite of Christian Initiation sacraments, as well as celebration of Confirmation and First Communion for children were disrupted in 2020 because of COVID-19 restrictions on gatherings.

Change in Age of Confirmation

After consultation with pastors, parishes, and Catholic schools, at the end of the 2019-2020 ministry year in July 2020, Bishop Hagemoen announced that going forward, children in the diocese of Saskatoon would be confirmed in Grade 6, rather than in Grade 2. Since 2006, Grade 2 children in the diocese have received the sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion at the same celebration). Going forward, First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion will continue to be celebrated by children in Grade 2.

Proclaiming Christ: *Nurturing and blessing leaders*



Delvin Kanewiyakiho, First Nations and Métis cultural consultant for Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools offered a drum song during the opening celebration for the 2019-2020 school year.

Catholic school year launched

“Led by the Spirit” was the theme of the opening day celebration for teachers and staff of Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools (GSCS) who gathered together Aug. 30, 2019 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon to launch a new school year, that would include a worldwide pandemic declared in March. Bishop Mark Hagemoen presided at the opening Mass.



Installation of pastors

In the fall of 2019, Bishop Mark Hagemoen continued a commitment to celebrate Mass with parish communities welcoming new pastors, including a special blessing ritual for pastors such as Fr. Mick Fleming, CSsR, (left) who was appointed pastor of St. Mary Parish in Saskatoon.

Proclaiming Christ: *Enrichment and Prayer*



Call to evangelize

It is time for Catholics to “get into the game” and actively proclaim the gospel as missionary disciples, Pete Burak of Renewal Ministries told a crowd gathered Nov. 7, 2019 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon.

Pete Burak’s presentation at the diocesan event in Saskatoon followed keynote presentations at a diocesan Priests’ Study Days earlier in the week.

At the public event, Nicole Laliberte also gave a dramatic presentation of the “Woman at the Well” about the Samaritan woman’s encounter with Jesus (*John 4*).



Youth in attendance at the public event in November 2019 gathered for a photo with guest speaker Pete Burak and Bishop Mark Hagemoen,

Growing in Faith: *Formation and Prayer*



Basic Missionary Training

In Fall 2019, Christy Dupuis, (*above, right*), led a seven-week diocesan program of Basic Missionary Training, entitled “Launch,” providing practical tools for sharing faith.



Final JOY graduates in 2019

Participants in a diocesan Justice and Outreach Year (JOY) of Formation program focused on putting Catholic Social Teaching into action through practical service.

With an end to external funding for the JOY program, it was discontinued after the 2019-2020 session – with the final year also interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Growing in Faith: *Enrichment and Prayer*



Lay Formation - Adult Faith Enrichment

Participants beginning the newly-renamed Adult Faith Enrichment Program in the Diocese of Saskatoon (a program formerly known as “Lay Formation”) joined some 200 Lay Formation alumni and friends for an annual Fall Gathering enrichment day Oct 12, 2019 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon. Special guest speaker was Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI, a long-time popular presenter for the former Lay Formation Program.



Reflecting on Christus Vivit

In the summer of 2019, Kaitlyn Deck, Jerome Montpetit, Bishop Mark Hagemoen, Catherine Renneberg and Clark Jaman (*above, l-r*) spent time reflecting on messages in Pope Francis’ letter “Christus Vivit,” written after the Extraordinary Synod on Youth, Vocation and Discernment. A video of their conversation was shared via diocesan websites and social media platforms.

Proclaiming Christ: *Enrichment and Prayer*



Into the Breach conference

Some 150 men of all ages gathered March 13-14, 2020 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon for a Catholic men’s spiritual enrichment event organized by the Knights of Columbus, with keynote speaker Andre Regnier of Catholic Christian Outreach, praise and worship, prayer and the Sacrament of Reconciliation, concluding with Mass celebrated by Bishop Mark Hagemoen.



Catholic women’s retreat

“Arise!” a women’s retreat in October 2019 was attended by some 250 women of all ages who gathered at St. Therese Institute of Faith and Mission. With support from Bishop Mark Hagemoen, the retreat was jointly presented by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon and alumni of Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO), organized by a group of volunteers.

Proclaiming Christ: *Vocations*



Vocation Events

Diocesan Vocation Directors

Fr. Colin Roy and Fr. Dan Yasinski (*left, l-r*) led a series of prayer and discernment events from Fall 2019 to Spring 2020 for young men discerning priesthood, featuring talks, prayer, and Eucharistic adoration.



Diocesan seminarian

Van Tam (Luke) Tran (*above*) is studying at Christ the King Seminary in Mission, BC.



Priests welcomed

A formation and orientation program was held in the summer of 2019 for newly-arrived priests in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon. New clergy were welcomed by Bishop Mark Hagemoen and a number of other speakers.

Proclaiming Christ: *Vocations*

Vocation initiatives:

In 2019-2020, a new **Academic Vocation Program** was under development as a partnership between the Diocese of Saskatoon and St. Thomas More College (STM). The program eventually launched in the fall of 2020, combining academic studies at the Catholic college with spiritual formation. The diocese learned in 2019-2020 that the **Verbum Dei missionary community** would send religious sisters to Saskatoon to embark on ministry in the diocese, particularly in the area of retreats and young adult ministry.



Consecrated religious

Sisters from a number of women's orders in the diocese (*above*) gathered for a time of prayer and sharing at an annual meeting held in September 2019 at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Saskatoon.



Formation for the Permanent Diaconate

In Advent 2019, Bishop Mark Hagemoen celebrated Mass with aspirants to the Permanent Diaconate and their wives and program leaders. Several men have embarked on a path of discernment and formation, reflecting on a call to ordination as Permanent Deacons in the Diocese of Saskatoon.

Proclaiming Christ: *Vocations and discernment*



New era for sisters

After bidding farewell to their well-loved Discernment House building on University Drive in the fall of 2019, the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary moved into a new home in Saskatoon, blessed by Bishop Mark Hagemoen in March 2020 (above). The move was a time to reflect on the impact of Discernment House on the lives of many young women, on retreat participants (both men and women), and their families over the years.



Canonization of St. John Henry Newman

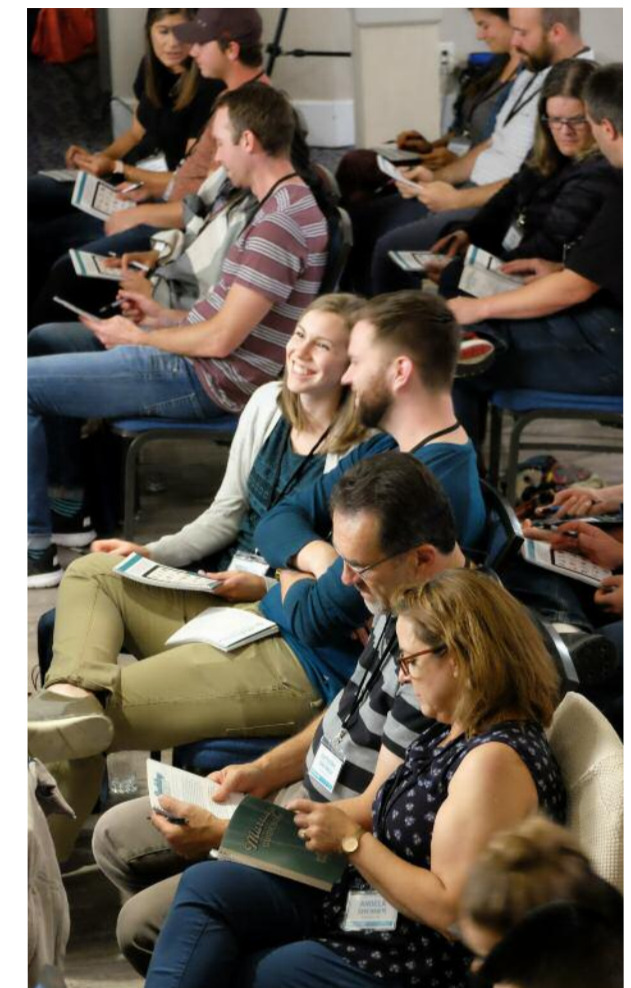
"Lead, kindly light, amid the encircling gloom, Lead thou me on..." This famous prayer by **St. John Henry Newman** was sung by the choir during an October 2019 celebration of the Eucharist with Bishop Mark Hagemoen at St. Thomas More College (STM) in Saskatoon, held to mark the saint's canonization in Rome. The Newman Club for Catholic students at the University of Saskatchewan campus pre-dates the founding of STM.

Proclaiming Christ: *Marriage and Family Life*



Marriage enrichment

A Breathe Marriage Conference in the Diocese of Saskatoon brought 170 people together at the Saskatoon Inn in September 2019 in a program featuring talks, celebration of Mass with Bishop Hagemoen, prayer ministry, opportunities for confession and time for couples to spend focusing on their relationship.



Proclaiming Christ: *Reverence for Life*

Almighty God, giver of all that is good,
we thank you for the precious gift
of human life:

For life in the womb,
coming from your creative power,

For the life of children,
making us glad with their
freshness and promise,

For the life of young people,
hoping for a better world,

For the life of people who are disabled,
teaching us that every life has value,

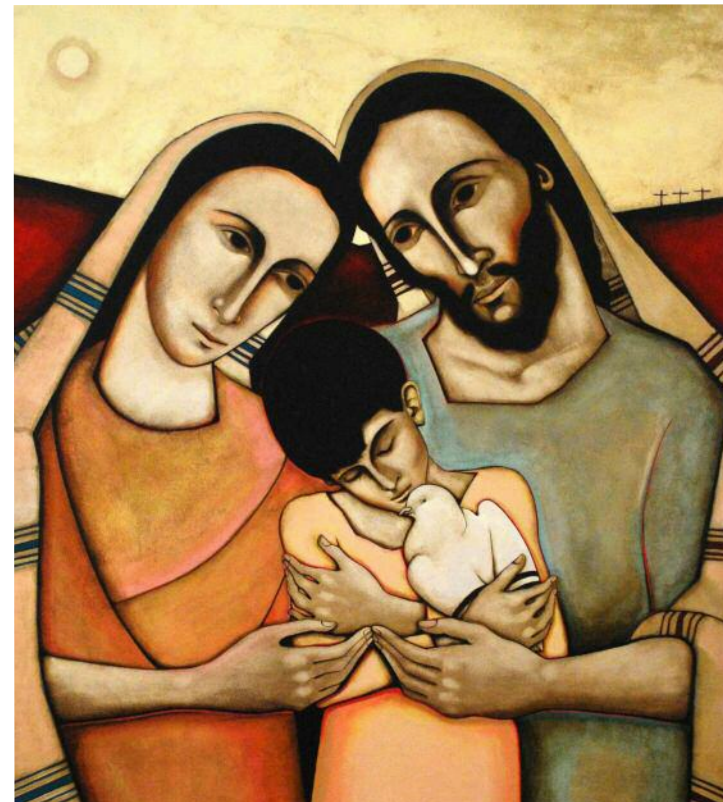
For the life of the elderly,
witnessing to the ageless values
of patience and wisdom.

Like Blessed Mary,
may we always say “yes” to Your gift.

Help us to realize the sacredness
of human life
and to respect and cherish it
from conception to its natural end.

And bring us at last, O Father,
to the fullness of eternal life
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN



*Day of Prayer for
Reverence for Life
Jan. 26, 2020*

*(Prayer card artwork: “Nazareth,” a painting
by Michael O’Brien – used with permission)*

Pro-life advocacy continues

The Diocese of Saskatoon Justice and Peace Office worked with various partners throughout 2019-2020 on letter-writing campaigns and petitions to provincial and federal government representatives **in favour of conscience rights** for health care providers unwilling to participate in taking a life and **opposed to expanding access to euthanasia / assisted suicide.**

Proclaiming Christ: *Justice, Witness and Prayer*

Justice and Peace in the political arena

Federal election issues from a Catholic perspective were up for discussion at an event Oct. 9, 2019 in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, held during a federal election campaign.

Myron Rogal, coordinator of the diocesan Office of Justice and Peace; Cristin Dorgan Lee, vice-principal St. Michael Community School, and Fr. Joseph Salihu, pastor of St. Augustine Parish in Humboldt (above, *l-r*), were panelists at the pre-election event, which was hosted by Bishop Mark Hagemoen. Questions and issues addressed from a Catholic perspective included poverty, Christian persecution, life issues, and the environment, as well as reconciliation with Indigenous people.



Prayers for Creation



The Season of Creation

The Season of Creation was marked Sept. 19, 2019 with a multi-faith prayer service and program of speakers hosted by the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon. The theme of the 2019 “Akathist” event was: “Reconciling with Each Other, Healing Mother Earth.” The Season of Creation begins each year on Sept. 1, the World Day of Prayer for Creation, and continues until Oct. 4, the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology and the environment.

Proclaiming Christ: *Ministries of Service, Outreach and Healing*

Feeding the hungry

At a Grow Hope Saskatchewan field day Aug. 24, 2019, local farmer Nathan Janzen, Myron Rogal of the Diocese of Saskatoon Justice and Peace Office, Canadian Foodgrains Bank representative Jacqueline Block, and Mennonite (MCC) representative Rick Guenther (l-r)



stand before a field of wheat planted for the Grow Hope Saskatchewan project.

Farmers donate land, time and expertise, while donors cover input costs, with funds from the sale of the harvest going to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank to feed hungry people around the world.

Christian unity



Week of Prayer 2020

An opening service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was held Jan. 19, 2020 at Knox United Church in Saskatoon, with participants joining Christians around the world in praying for unity and reconciliation.



Covenant anniversary

Fr. Bernard de Margerie and Rev. Ron McConnell together light a single candle March 8, 2020, during a 20th anniversary celebration of the ecumenical covenant between Holy Spirit Catholic Church and McClure United Church in Saskatoon.

The history of the covenant, its impact and meaning, and next steps forward were highlighted.

Proclaiming Christ: *Ministries of Service, Outreach and Healing*

Hospital chaplaincy

The diocesan Hospital Chaplaincy office is coordinated by Jackie Saretsky, whose time is divided between visits to patients at Saskatoon City Hospital and Royal University Hospital, and working with volunteers, providing administration and education. When the pandemic hit in March 2020, volunteers were no longer permitted to visit, with only hospital chaplains permitted as part of the care team (Saretsky and priest chaplain Fr. Rheal Bussiere until June 2020). Jackie Saretsky also presents the Dying Healed workshop to groups in the diocese, focused on providing compassionate care to those at the end of life.



New hospital chapel

Diocesan Hospital Chaplaincy coordinator Jackie Saretsky (*right*) and Fr. Matthew Ramsay of St. Anne Parish, Saskatoon, were among those attending the October 2019 blessing of the multi-faith chapel in the new Jim Pattison Children's Hospital in Saskatoon.

Prison ministry

Dianne Anderson coordinates the diocesan Office of Restorative Ministry, offering visits, prayers, and healing programs to inmates, as well as outreach to families, and coordination of volunteers and parish involvement. In-person ministry was interrupted by COVID-19 in March 2020, which shut-



down visiting at the Saskatoon Correctional Centre, leading to a new emphasis on telephone ministry. Before that pandemic interruption, in-person programs presented at the prison through the Restorative Ministry Office included worship services, healing circles, grief programs, parenting classes, and a unique "bedtime stories" video project – in which screened inmates are selected to be videotaped reading a story and a short message to send to their children. The video is then delivered to the children along with the book and new pyjamas in a backpack (all provided through donations).

Proclaiming Christ: *Ministries of Service and Outreach*



A new arrival is welcomed at the Saskatoon airport in 2019 by waiting family, by members of the sponsoring parish, and by Office of Migration coordinator Jan Bigland-Pritchard.

Sponsoring refugees

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon has been helping refugees for about 40 years, mostly through the dedicated work of committed volunteers, now supported by staff in the Migration Office, including Coordinator Rev. Dr. Jan Bigland-Pritchard.

The diocese is a Sponsorship Agreement Holder with the Government of Canada, able to apply for between 30 and 50 refugees a year. In 2019-2020, the diocesan Migration Office had an active caseload of some 100 people, with 36 refugees applied for in 2019, and 37 in 2020.

The average time it takes from when a parish agrees to sponsor a family until the family arrives at the airport is between 18 months to 2.5 years.

The worldwide coronavirus pandemic border closures that started in mid-March 2020 meant arrivals stopped for several months, before finally resuming in the fall of 2020. A special grant from the federal government through United Way this year has meant that the Migration Office has been able to provide laptops, printers and training (in their own languages) to a number of families so that newcomers had access to online language classes, medical help, government benefits, and remote learning for children, when the schools were closed to in-person attendance.

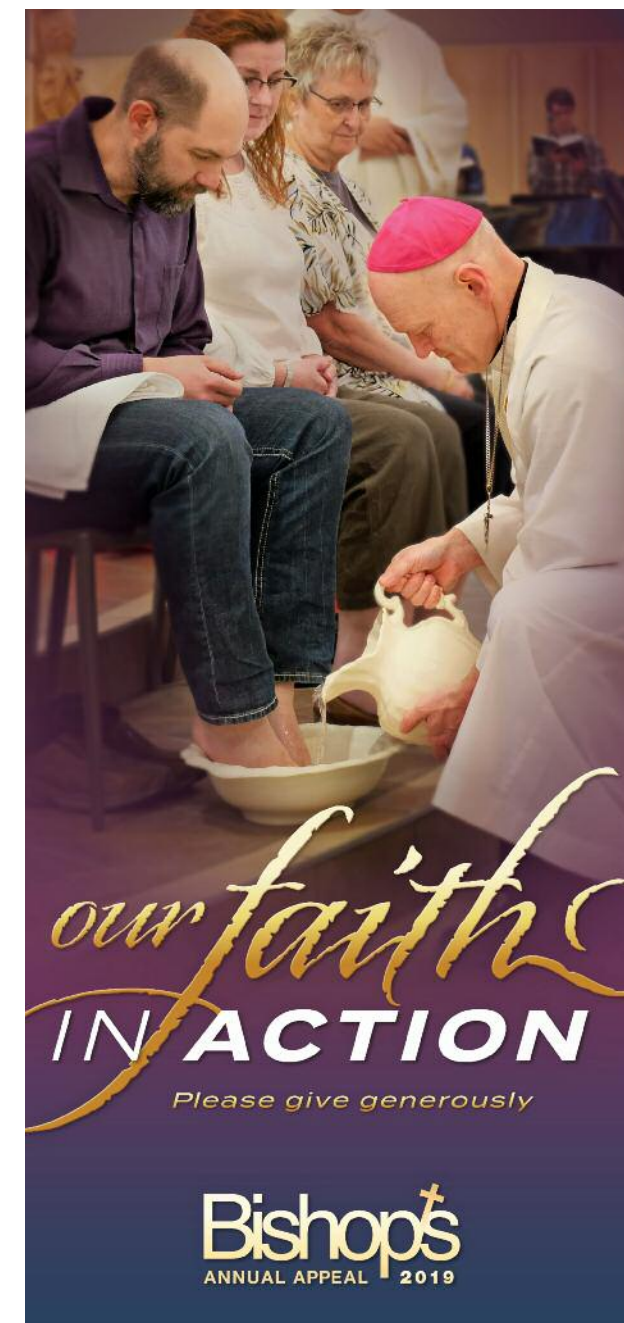
Proclaiming Christ: *Moving from Maintenance to Mission*

Stewardship and fund-raising

The Diocese of Saskatoon Catholic Foundation began the 2019-2020 ministry year fresh from hosting a successful Western Canadian Catholic Stewardship Conference in June 2019.

The 2019 Bishop’s Annual Appeal was launched and completed as usual by year-end (right), with a \$1.405 million goal. A few short months later, in March 2020, everything was changed by the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic.

Restrictions placed on gatherings, including worship, fund-raising events like the Bishop’s Dinner, parish collections, and in-person training, as well as on the distribution of printed materials, disrupted many plans. However, through it all the diocese’s fund-raising and stewardship arm found ways to stay connected with parishes and with Catholics across the diocese, sharing information about the diocese’s continuing and ongoing ministry needs. The Catholic Foundation initiated Zoom meetings with parishes, pursued electronic communication with renewed vigour (including a new texting service), undertook more mailouts, and set up a new online “Parish Offertory” program to assist parishes.



Online Parish Offertory program statistics March to June 2020:

March 2020 - June 30, 2020		Urban	Rural
# of Parishes that participated	52	18	34
# of Donors who participated	262	192	70
# of Gifts	484	356	128
Total Given	\$64,662.00	\$ 48,217.00	\$ 16,445.00
Average Gift per donor	\$ 246.80	\$ 251.13	\$ 234.93
Average Size Gift	\$ 133.60	\$ 135.44	\$ 128.48



Covenant of Care: Safeguarding commitments

As part of an ongoing commitment to safeguarding children, youth and the vulnerable in our churches, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon in 2020 published a **Safer Church, Stronger Communities** safeguarding action plan featuring 20 commitments aimed at preventing and responding to abuse by clergy or others in the church. The *Safer Churches, Stronger Communities* action plan — reprinted in the following four pages of this Annual Report — reflects the recent work of a diocesan Safeguarding Committee established by Saskatoon Bishop Mark Hagemoen in 2018, to review and update the diocese’s long-standing policies related to safeguarding and abuse. “With this action plan we wanted to explain how our own local Catholic community is responding to this important issue,” says Safeguarding Committee Chair Brenda FitzGerald. “The bottom line is that we are committed to do all we can to make our churches safe for all, and to heal the hurt caused by the crime of sexual abuse.”



Bishop Hagemoen speaks about the Safeguarding Action Plan at a Priest Study Days in 2020



A safeguarding training session held in Humboldt in November 2019 is part of ongoing training for clergy, staff and volunteers.

“This is a tragedy. We must bring all of this to the light, and find our way forward finding the same mind, heart, and way as Christ Jesus.”

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This action plan provides an update about our continuing, ongoing efforts to realize an important goal for our diocese and for any church: that they be places of profound respect and safety for all peoples — especially the young and vulnerable.

Lately I have been especially struck by a message brought to our clergy at our November 2019 Study Days by Sister Nancy Brown, SCH:

“The body of Christ has been broken by the scandal of clerical abuse. All members of the community have been affected by this grave injustice. During this time of intense pain and shame, all are called to show compassionate care, listening deeply to the pain, shame, anger, confusion, disbelief and questioning of faith. It is a time to listen unconditionally without judgment, rejecting all cover ups, revealing all secrets, calling perpetrators to accountability and walking with the survivors. Safeguarding within the church means working toward the elimination of violence and cultivating a culture of peace and harmony.”



As I reflect on these comments, I grieve with you at what may be the greatest disappointment and sin for the church: *the violation and victimization by any member of the*

church, and most specifically any of its clergy, of the young and vulnerable ...by leaders and pastors of the faithful whose priority is to embody by their lives the truth and way of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This is a tragedy. We must bring all of this to the light, and find our way forward finding the same mind, heart, and way as Christ Jesus.

I begin by addressing any person in our diocese or beyond who has experienced abuse by clergy or anyone else in the church. I am profoundly sorry for what you have suffered. While expressions of regret pale in comparison to the trauma, the sense of betrayal and abandonment, and violation of the human person — they must be made.

I also apologize to all of you in our church whose faith and trust have been damaged because of the sinful actions of those who abused the innocent, as well as by those in the church who covered up such abuse, or worried more about the reputation of the institution than they did about the welfare of the victims.

Your anger, your sorrow, and your hurt must also be acknowledged.

I realize that these words must become ‘real’ by the actions of our community. Trust is not merely granted but earned. I am grateful for the work of many who have worked with me on these commitments since I came to our Diocese of Saskatoon. In particular, I am grateful for the faithful and ongoing efforts of our Safeguarding Committee — chaired by Brenda FitzGerald — which has spent the last two years examining and updating our safeguarding protocols and procedures.

I am also grateful for the work of our new “Historical Case Review Committee”, chaired by Bob Loran, which is reviewing any historical cases involving the abuse of children and vulnerable adults by clergy in our diocese. I look forward to receiving the results of this new committee’s work, and to communicating to you their recommendations and our response in the near future.

It is my goal to hold the bar very high in assuring that all our churches are safe and respectful communities.

To this end, please join me in praying that the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph will be our inspiration and guide as we commit ourselves to building a holy and righteous culture, which assures safety and support for all our members, especially the young and other vulnerable persons. AMEN.

Yours in Christ

+ M. Hagemoen

✠ Most Reverend Mark A. Hagemoen

Safer Church, Stronger Communities

SAFEGUARDING ACTION PLAN

Our Commitments

I OUTREACH & HEALING

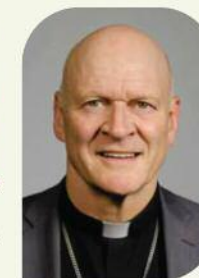
1. We commit to a safe, respectful and compassionate intake process for victims to come forward.
2. We commit to listening to those who identify as victims of sexual abuse by others in the church, acting on their allegations with empathy and integrity and providing support through trustworthy and competent caregivers.
3. We commit to responding to abuse and the need for honesty and healing – including through prayer and liturgical opportunities.
4. We commit to cooperation in prosecuting those committing crimes of sexual abuse, while also committing to a strategy of treatment for perpetrators.
5. We commit to open and ongoing communication on safeguarding initiatives, including regular updates on our action plan.
6. We commit to a series of parish and/or deanery roundtable conversations regarding expanded safeguarding in the diocese.

II PROCESS OF REPORTING AND ADDRESSING ALLEGATIONS OF SERIOUS MISCONDUCT AND SEXUAL ABUSE

7. We commit to an intake process that is clear, straight-forward and confidential.
 - a) Intake Officers are available and contact information is listed at rcdos.ca/report-abuse. Male and female Intake Officers will always be available as contact options. We commit to an immediate response to allegations within 48 hours.
 - b) we commit to report all allegations to police immediately in cases of alleged child sexual abuse.
8. We commit to the review process of all historical files currently underway, led by a committee of qualified people who are independent of the bishop's office and the diocesan curia. The committee's historical case review will include all clergy, past and present, including those who have died.
9. We commit to ongoing support and resources for the independent Victim Support Coordinator who has been appointed to provide healing support and guidance for those who identify as victims of sexual abuse.
10. We commit to rigorous record keeping and documenting allegations of any and all serious or sexual misconduct in the personnel files of clergy members/ church employees.
11. We commit to establishing a clear process to address any reports of serious misconduct, including sexual abuse, by clergy and church employees — that addresses:
 - making the complaint or report
 - the evaluation
 - the conclusion and action or response
12. We commit to publicly identifying the names of clergy and church employees who have been found guilty of sexual abuse or other serious misconduct in a court of law or through the diocese's own safeguarding investigative process, subject to privacy laws.
13. We commit to a victim-first approach when investigating and acting on allegations of serious or sexual misconduct, ensuring that no further trauma is caused to victims/survivors in the process.

III POLICIES & TRAINING IN THE DIOCESE

14. We commit that our Policies and Protocols will:
 - a) reflect the guidelines in the Canadian Catholic Conference of Bishops 2018 updated document *Protecting Minors from Sexual Abuse*
 - b) undergo audits by an external auditor (at four-year intervals).
15. We commit that all clergy, church employees, and volunteers who interact with children and vulnerable adults will:
 - a) receive regular and up-to-date training regarding safe-guarding and all features of our *Covenant of Care* safeguarding policies
 - b) receive training that addresses what to watch for in terms of inappropriate behaviour
 - c) review and sign a Code of Conduct
 - d) be given clear direction about the obligation to report all serious misconduct (as defined in the diocesan policy found at rcdos.ca/safer-church), taking into account both civil and ecclesial (church) obligations
 - e) receive training regarding how to support victims, including crisis and trauma training for clergy and diocesan employees who work with youth/ vulnerable adults
 - f) identify individual clergy and laity as designated persons trained in trauma support and accompaniment.
16. We commit to supporting a designated Parish Coordinator of Care for every parish, to serve as a liaison and contact person at the local level for issues related to safeguarding.
17. We commit to coordinating our efforts, and sharing our working practices, with major Catholic organizations in Canada, including:
 - a) the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops
 - b) the Assembly of Western Catholic Bishops
 - c) the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Saskatchewan



"It is my goal to hold the bar very high in assuring that all our churches are safe and respectful communities, and that they are free from the evil of sexual abuse by clergy or anyone else in the church."
 Most Reverend Mark A. Hagemoen,
 Bishop of Saskatoon



"We are parishioners and people from every walk of life, strongly committed to making our churches safe for all and responding to those with allegations of sexual abuse with urgency, empathy, compassion and understanding."
 Brenda FitzGerald,
 Safeguarding Committee Chair

Safeguarding Committee: Brenda FitzGerald (Chair), Clint Berscheid, Verna Daniels, Fr. Gerard Dewan, Rodelle Genoway, Sarah O'Gorman, William Preston, Derwyn R., and Penny Volk.

IV EXPANDING SAFEGUARDING CULTURE

18. We commit to the concept of an inter-diocesan body that oversees the development of norms and protocols for safe environment/ safeguarding and monitors compliance.
19. We commit to sharing with diocesan bishop and/or religious superiors all information in our files regarding clergy who have been convicted of sexual misconduct, or otherwise found guilty through the diocese's own investigative processes.
20. We will continue to advocate for a culture of respect and safety – especially for young and vulnerable persons. We will respond to the problems of exploitation and violence against human persons by providing ongoing education and awareness on:
 - a) parenting in a digital age
 - b) children's Internet and technology safety
 - c) moving from exploitation to a culture of respect and safety

Safer Church, Stronger Communities
SAFEGUARDING ACTION PLAN

Key Questions & Answers

Why has the Church taken so long to address sexual abuse?

Although the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon and the Catholic Church in Canada have worked over the past 30 years to better understand the issue and implement policies to protect children and vulnerable adults in our church, we have still fallen short. Recent revelations in Canada and elsewhere have strengthened our resolve to prioritize supporting victims, which includes acknowledging and responding to the trauma caused by abusers in the church. We can and must do more.

Why is the church hesitant to release the names of “credibly accused” clergy or employees?

“Credibly accused” clergy or employees are those who have strong allegations against them but have not been convicted in a court of law. There is a debate about the legality of whether the names of these individuals should be made public. In Saskatoon, we are committed to protecting public safety, and providing justice to victims, to the greatest extent privacy and defamation laws will allow.

Are priests found guilty of sexual abuse allowed to continue working in ministry? Do they get “shuffled” to another parish?

If they are found guilty by a court of law or through the diocese’s own investigative process, then they do not continue to work in ministry and are never transferred to other parishes.

I am a victim who has never reported my experience. What do I do?

Please come forward and tell your story. We will listen, take you seriously and help you find the emotional and spiritual support you need. If you are the victim of a sexual crime, please contact police.





Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon
Catholic Pastoral Centre
Cathedral of the Holy Family (2nd Floor)
123 Nelson Road, Saskatoon, SK S7S 1H1
Telephone: (306) 242-1500
Toll Free: 1-877-661-5005
rcdos.ca/safer-church


Published in Spring 2020


Taking Action on Abuse

Our diocese has worked on addressing church misconduct, including sexual abuse, in a number of ways. Recent highlights include:

 **Established Safeguarding Committee** of eight laypeople and one priest representative.

 **Extensive review and update of diocesan policies** related to safeguarding and handling misconduct including sexual abuse

 **Ongoing training sessions for clergy and lay** on caring for victims and responding to allegations

 **Established Historical Case Review Committee** to examine any past instances or allegations of abuse and how they were handled.

Communicating in many ways

The art of communicating in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon has seen many changes over the years — and this has certainly included the 2019-2020 ministry year. The diocesan Communications Office has continued to use traditional communication vehicles such as a weekly insert prepared for church bulletins and a printed Diocesan Newsletter (with a 24-page edition published and distributed to parishes and Catholic schools in November 2019.) At the same time, communication efforts have also



expanded to include an improved diocesan website at <https://rcdos.ca>, e-mailouts of news and materials, as well as the increasing use of video and social media, including the live-streaming of Mass since the start of the pandemic in March 2020. An online Catholic Saskatoon News portal, created in 2018 (after the closing of the Catholic weekly newspaper *The Prairie Messenger*) has also become an important online vehicle for sharing local, national, and international Catholic news — especially this year:

<https://news.rcdos.ca>



Since COVID-19 restrictions on numbers permitted to gather for worship started in March 2020, a new website of live-streamed Masses from parishes in our diocese, as well as other video and audio resources has been established at: saskatoonmass.com



Facebook: @saskatoonrcdiocese
www.facebook.com/saskatoonrcdiocese



Twitter account: @saskatooncath
twitter.com/saskatooncath

YouTube channel:
www.youtube.com/user/saskatoondiocese



Bishop's Annual Appeal 2019-2020

BAA 2019 Allocations for 2020

	DIOCESAN OPERATIONS	EXTERNAL
Indigenous Ministry	\$ 106,800	
Catholic Family Services		\$ 30,000
Christian Initiation and Catechetics	5,500	
Church Capital Development / New Sites & Churches Fund		50,000
Restoration Fund		50,000
Communications	86,350	
Deaf Ministry	4,570	
Ecumenical & Interfaith / Prairie Centre for Ecumenism		20,000
Education for Priests/ Future Priests	53,775	
Evangelization & Catechesis / Ministry Support	83,400	
Friendship Inn		5,000
Hospital Chaplaincy	92,900	
Keewatin-Le Pas Archdiocese Support		30,000
Lay Ministry Formation. / Education of Laity for Ministry	10,600	
Adult Faith Enrichment Program	92,000	
JOY Program	42,000	
Liturgy Commission	1,100	
Marriage & Family Ministry Development	7,750	
Migration	59,300	
Office for Justice & Peace	40,000	
Safeguarding/Covenant of Care	14,800	
Restorative Ministry (Prison)	61,000	
Vocations	22,900	
Youth Ministry	1,500	
SUBTOTAL	\$ 786,245	\$ 185,000
BAA Administration		210,100
Parish Sharing		152,820
TOTALS	\$ 786,245	\$ 547,920
TOTAL ALLOCATIONS	\$ 1,334,165	
TOTAL DONATIONS RECEIVED	\$ 1,500,715	
DIFFERENCE *	\$ 166,550 *	

*held in equity for 2020-2021 operations re: deferral of ministry office expansion/new hires due to COVID-19

Financials at a Glance

EPISCOPAL CORP OF SASKATOON STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Consolidated with Parish Development Fund

REVENUE	2020	2019
Parish Assessments	\$ 1,176,320	\$ 1,250,523 (A)
Bishop's Annual Appeal	981,199	921,151 (A) (B)
Insurance & Administrative Recoveries	608,578	623,294
Contributions from RCDOS Catholic Foundation	416,208	570,199 (C)
Clergy Recovery	282,984	229,702
Special Collections	177,456	208,848
Donations	172,023	213,675
Fifth Avenue Property Rental	86,920	107,920
Participant fees related to ministry	51,331	102,670
Cost Recovery from support of external ministries	12,197	11,836
Events Revenue	10,135	16,988
Sundry	1,237	1,677
Government Assistance	287,014	- (D)
	<u>\$ 4,263,602</u>	<u>\$ 4,258,483</u>
EXPENDITURES		
Administration	1,109,568	1,015,544
Clergy	860,096	1,074,493
Ministry	779,677	984,210
Chancery & Tribunal	201,044	218,612
Special Collections	177,456	208,848
Occupancy costs	167,080	149,080
Support of External Ministries	161,684	111,439
Bishop's office & housing	149,873	166,263
Interest Expense - Parish Development Fund	141,765	128,371
Pastoral Services	87,398	121,273
Committees & Commissions	21,894	24,469
Fifth Avenue Property	19,800	19,885
Total	<u>\$ 3,877,335</u>	<u>\$ 4,222,487</u>
Excess of support and revenue over expenses	<u>\$ 386,267</u>	<u>\$ 35,996</u>

(A) Change in accounting policy in 2019-2020 fiscal year regarding revenue recognition in order to remove qualification from audited statements.

(B) Revenue from the Bishop's Annual Appeal does not all come into the Diocese. Some of the revenue is disbursed to organizations and ministries outside of the Catholic Centre, some is held in the Foundation, and some is allocated as Parish Sharing.

(C) \$154,000 decrease (2020 over 2019) in expenses related to Clergy Pension re: unfunded liability in clergy defined benefit pension plan.

(D) Funds received from the federal Government of Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy program re: COVID-19 relief.

Find the complete Audited Financial Statement online: [LINK](#)
or contact (306) 242-1500 to request a printed copy of the Audited Financial Statement

We pray that our Lord will bring healing
as this terrible pandemic afflicts the world.

We pray for the healing of all who are sick,
especially the elderly and infirm.

We also pray for God's protection for all those we rely on
who are on the front lines of response –
especially health care workers and other service providers.

May we also recommit to walking always with the Lord.

(Excerpt from Bishop Mark Hagemoen's 2020 Easter Message)

Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon

Catholic Pastoral Centre, 2nd Floor, Cathedral of the Holy Family

123 Nelson Road, Saskatoon, SK S7S 1H1; Phone: 306-242-1500

<https://rcdos.ca>

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