

ANNUAL REPORT



2022



Archdiocese of GATINEAU

www.diocesegatineau.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	Introduction
2	New parishes
3	Synod
4	Safe environments
5	Pastoral visit to the parishes
6	Staff News
7	Novatio
8	Financial Report

INTRODUCTION

The Archdiocese of Gatineau includes some sixty Catholic parishes throughout the Outaouais region. Since 2011, it has been led by Archbishop Paul-André Durocher.

The archdiocese is marked by its diversity: a large urban centre surrounded by a significant rural area; a predominantly French environment with a strong Anglo-Irish minority; significant waves of immigration from Portugal, Lebanon, Latin America, Haiti and Africa; and a significant disparity in wealth between the urban and rural areas. Public service is the principle economic engine, while processing industries have declined significantly in the past decades.

The Outaouais, like the rest of Quebec, is becoming increasingly secularized. The committed faithful are divided between older long-time residents and younger immigrant families who flock to the region. The majority of the clergy are immigrants; there are a few priests from religious communities in Quebec: Marist and Montfort Fathers as well as Oblates of Mary Immaculate. A handful of nuns who are still active are growing older. A few movements support the spiritual and committed life of their members.

In spite of diminishing resources, parish communities generally remain committed and dynamic. They seek to respond to the call of Pope Francis to be open to the world and engaged in society. Centred on Jesus Christ, animated by his Spirit, they want to be sources of hope and joy in our environment.

NEW PARISHES

On June 1, 2022, Pope Francis decreed a major reorganization of the Catholic Church in the Outaouais and the Laurentians. The dioceses of Mont-Laurier and St-Jérôme were merged while the parish communities in the western end of Mont-Laurier, surrounding Gracefield and Maniwaki, were attached to the Archdiocese of Gatineau.



*The statue of the Sacred Heart
in Lac Blue Sea*

Here is the list of the new parishes in the archdiocese:

- L'Assomption-de-Marie in the municipality of Maniwaki;
- Saint Patrick's, also in the municipality of Maniwaki;
- Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, serving the Catholic members of Kitigan Zibi;
- Sainte-Marie-de-l'Incarnation in the municipality of Gracefield;
- St-Roch of Lac-Cayamant;
- Also, Notre-Dame-du-Mont-Carmel in Duhamel has officially been integrated into our archdiocese.

Sadly, one parish was closed this year at the request of the parishioners: St-Émile-de-Suffolk.

SYNOD

In October 2021, Pope Francis launched a vast synodal project in the Catholic world. He wants to involve all the faithful in a process of discernment on the life of the Church. The Archdiocese of Gatineau is firmly committed to this project.



The consultative phase

From January to April 2022, some 600 members of the faithful met in a hundred or so groups to discuss the chosen themes: How do we listen to each other in Church? How do we speak? How do we celebrate together? How do we make decisions? How do we carry together the mission of Christ?



The synodal assembly

On 28 May, 180 members of the archdiocese gathered to receive and endorse the synthesis of the reflections gathered during these meetings. In September, Bishop Durocher published a pastoral letter confirming the priorities identified by the assembly.



Follow-up

In September and October, pastoral launches were held to reflect on the theme of welcome, one of the pastoral priorities that emerged from the consultation. Training sessions on transformational leadership are being held for priests, deacons and pastoral workers.

SAFE ENVIRONMENTS I

On March 1st, Bishop Durocher decreed the implementation of a policy to ensure that our environments are safe for minors and vulnerable people who come to Church and participate in our activities.

Since the summer, Ms. Chantal Duguay has been piloting this project. The guidelines include a code of conduct, a guide to identify the levels of risk associated with various roles and steps to minimise these risks.



SAFE ENVIRONMENTS II

Steps	When?	Results
I - Preparation of resources	August and September 2022	Publication of guidelines on the Web and in handbooks.
II - Information and awareness	October to December 2022	Presentations in all our parishes.
III - Training of parish delegates	January to June 2023	Implementation of the guidelines in all our parishes

Audit of priests' personal files

Judge André Denis, a retired judge of the Quebec Superior Court, has studied all the active and historical files of priests in the dioceses of Western Quebec, including that of the Archdiocese of Gatineau. On June 6, 2022, he presented his report to the concerned bishops. He found credible evidence of abuse of young people in 1.4% of the files. Four worrying cases in our diocese since its foundation in 1963 concern priests who, today, are deceased. One case concerns a priest who is still alive and has served his sentence in prison; since then, he has not exercised any ministry in the Church. Since the publication of the audit, the diocese has received three new allegations. They all concern priests who are now deceased. These allegations are handled by the Diocesan Advisory Committee for Sexual Abuse.

There is no evidence of concern regarding priests who are currently active in the Archdiocese of Gatineau.

PASTORAL VISIT OF PARISHES

In October, Bishop Durocher began a long pilgrimage that will take him from week to week through all the parishes of the diocese. This ten-month project will allow him to meet parishioners and celebrate the Sunday Eucharist with them.

Parish teams prepare a comprehensive report on the life of the community which they share with the archbishop. The archbishop listens to them share their joys and hopes, their fears and concerns. These conversations are rich and powerful; they facilitate concerted action between the parishes and the diocesan team.

To follow up on this visit, Bishop Durocher will prepare summaries for each of the five zones, which he will study with them in the fall of 2023. He also plans to spend time with the religious communities and movements present in the archdiocese.

OCT

Eastern Zone

A dozen parishes in the Petite-Nation.

**NOV-
DEC**

Northern Zone

The twenty French-language communities north of the city of Gatineau.

STAFFING NEWS

In 2022, some people left us, others joined us to provide leadership and services to our parishes and our diocesan team. Here are some of these changes.

PARISH PRIESTS

Fr. Dan Kelly returned to his home diocese. Fr. Elie Muzungu Kasongo-Ngoy, s.c.j. has joined St-Alexandre and St-Matthieu. We welcome the priests from Maniwaki and Gracefield: Sylvain Desrosiers, Mario Thibault and George Iheanacho, o.m.i., as well as the Marists who have come to commit themselves to a social pastoral project in our area, Father Didier Hadonou and Brother Mario Béland.

DIOCESAN TEAM

Ms Annie Esson Assoua left the team to take up a position in the public service sector. Ms. Marie Christine Emmanuella Adjobi has taken over from her in project management. We also welcome a new human resources technician, Ms. Jeannette Ndaya Tshibangu.

NOVATIO

A study carried out in our parishes in 2013 revealed the need for a foundation to support innovative pastoral projects. A decrease in financial resources could lead parishes to focus on pure survival, which would not be healthy for our communities. This is why the archdiocese has set up Novatio, a foundation that became active this year thanks to the generosity of some generosity of a few major donors.

The first Annual General Meeting took place in December. We took the opportunity to honour the memory of Mr. Pierre Laflamme, founding president of Novatio. He devoted himself to the cause until his last days so that this foundation would be firmly established.

An initial awareness-raising campaign took place last spring which enabled some parishes and community organisations to present grant applications. Already at the end of 2022, we were able to announce the imminent granting of \$70,000 in support of a dozen projects throughout the archdiocese.

Your donations will help to support this foundation which aims at nothing less than to ensure the continuation of the Gospel mission in the Outaouais for years to come.

To donate :
[Fondation Novatio](#)



FINANCIAL REPORT

July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

Each of the 57 parishes of the archdiocese of Gatineau is separately incorporated and so manages its own specific budget. The archdiocesan corporation also has an operational budget. Our financial year runs from July 1 to June 30.

Diocesan revenues essentially come from four sources: parish diocesan contributions (10% of assessed revenues); interest on investments; rentals at the Diocesan Centre and at Maison St-Joseph (a home for priests); and various revenues (donations, Mass intentions et others).

Expenses of the diocesan services and services provided to parishes fall into four categories: personnel salaries at the Diocesan Centre and at Maison St-Joseph; the salaries of some parish priests (especially those in charge of multiple parishes); projects of the diocesan pastoral services (Christian initiation, formation to Christian life, social justice and missionary projects, etc.); maintenance of our buildings (the diocesan centre and Maison St-Joseph).

Finally, the assets of the archdiocesan corporation as of June 30 2022 (the corporation's total value, including its monetary funds and its properties, both movable and immovable) amount to \$24,018,172. Besides Maison Saint-Joseph, archdiocesan properties include the monastery of the Servantes de Jésus-Marie which, since June 2020, has been integrated into the Diocesan Centre building. The Sisters bore the construction costs of this monastery, though the archdiocese is its owner.

FINANCIAL REPORT

ARCHDIOCESE OF GATINEAU FINANCIAL STATEMENTS JUNE 30, 2022			
	REVENUES	EXPENSES	NET
Administration Funds			
Diocesan Contribution	\$ 371 715,00		\$ 371 715,00
Rental income	\$ 215 469,69	\$ 134 590,44	\$ 80 879,25
Investment income	\$ 251 703,36	\$ 28 494,23	\$ 223 209,13
Other administratif	\$ 955 023,40	\$ 1 690 282,14	(\$735 258,74)
Administration Funds Total	\$ 1 793 911,45	\$ 1 853 366,81	(\$59 455,36)
Compensation Funds	\$ 21 813,70	\$ 5 192,04	\$ 16 621,66
Vocation Funds	\$ 31 590,23	\$ 56 254,87	(\$24 664,64)
Pastoral	\$ 4 160,00	\$ 26 655,52	(\$22 495,52)
Total	\$ 1 851 475,38	\$ 1 941 469,24	(\$89 993,86)