

4044 NELTHORPE ST.
DIOCESAN PASTORAL CENTRE



ANNUAL REPORT

2017

CONTACT US

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF VICTORIA

PHONE
(250) 479-1331

FAX
(250) 479-5423

EMAIL
chancery@rcdvictoria.org

WEBSITE
www.rcdvictoria.org

TWITTER
@rcdvictoria.org

ISLAND CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

PHONE
(250) 727-6893

FAX
(250) 727-6879

EMAIL
info@cisdv.bc.ca

WEBSITE
www.cisdv.bc.ca

ADDRESS

1 – 4044 Nelthorpe Street
Victoria BC V8X 2A1





MESSAGE FROM Bishop Gary Gordon

Dear People of God,

The past year was blessed with many initiatives and further development of a spirit of missionary-discipleship within the Diocese. I want to take this opportunity to mention a few noteworthy developments.

In March 2017 I participated with the bishops of Western Canada in the Quinquennial visit *Ad Limina*¹ to the Bishop of Rome, His Holiness Pope Francis, along with several offices of

pastoral assistance for the Church around the world. Of note was the two-and-a-half hour dialogue with Pope Francis, which was a lively exchange on many issues for the Church in Western Canada. The development of meaningful relationships and dialogue with Indigenous peoples is a great concern of our Holy Father, which is very practical for our Diocese, which has 53 First Nations. Education, and family faith formation and support were noted as vitally important, and we all found our Holy Father interested in practical ways to accompany families and married couples to live their vocations. The grave

threat to life itself that euthanasia and assisted suicide poses to our country, especially vulnerable persons, was discussed. The conversation was very frank and engaging, and I found Pope Francis well informed about even small details of our present Canadian culture, and the threats to religious freedom. Pope Francis is well aware that the greatest pastoral tool we have, and must exercise for evangelization in our modern times, is closeness and accompaniment.

A significant highlight has been the three-year development of a robust partnership between St. Joseph's Hospital, Comox, and Providence Health Care, creating new opportunities for the redevelopment of St. Joseph's into a world leader in care of the frail elderly and vulnerable in the Comox valley. We were also blessed with the creation of a Diocesan Public Juridic Person for the ongoing grace of continuing the legacy of the Sisters of St. Ann in health care at Mount St. Mary Hospital in Victoria. Both of these developments are complicated, but vital for the continuance of Catholic Health Care in the Diocese, to enable the healing ministry of Christ to continue, despite the challenges that a culture of death pursues in our country.

Finally, I want express immense gratitude to all the faith-filled people who witness to the living presence of Christ and the joy of the Gospel, expressed in ever new ways to encounter all the people living in our Diocese.

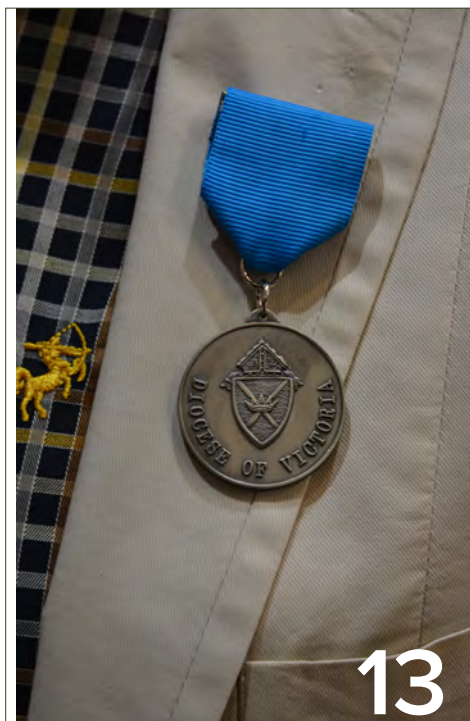
In Communion,

A handwritten signature of Gary Gordon in black ink.

Most Reverend Gary Gordon
Bishop of Victoria

¹ The obligation of residential diocesan bishops of meeting the Pope to report on the state of their dioceses.

CONTENTS



5 2017 AT A GLANCE

6 ABOUT US

7 LEADERSHIP TEAMS

8 PASTORAL CENTRE
OFFICES

10 ISLAND CATHOLIC
SCHOOLS

12 ACCOMPLISHMENTS
AND EVENTS

15 SPECIAL EVENTS

16 YOUTH AND FAMILY

17 ANNUAL APPEAL

18 BISHOP'S GALA

19 OUTREACH

20 AUDITED FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS

This Annual Report is an in-house free publication by the Communications Department of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria. EDITOR: Connie Dunwoody. No part of this publication may be reproduced without the written consent of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria.

© 2018 Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria | www.rcdvictoria.org | [@rcdvictoria](https://twitter.com/rcdvictoria)



2017 AT A GLANCE



10,422

Registered families



41
Parishes
&
Missions



1,637
Students
in Catholic
Schools



645

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STUDENTS

76

TRAINED CATECHISTS

12,156
Sacrament of
Reconciliation

2,167
Sacrament of the
Sick

384
Funerals

223
RESPONSIBLE
MINISTRY
TRAINING &
CONSULTATIONS

34

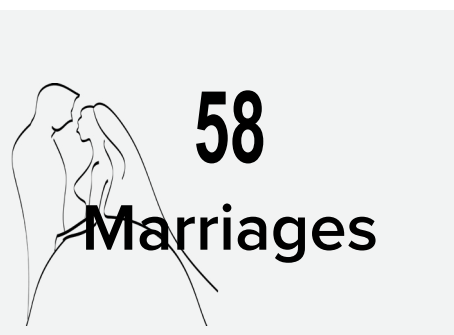
PRIESTS

1

ORDINATION

2

SEMINARIANS



58
Marriages

209 Baptisms
272 Confirmations
209 First Communions



ABOUT US



About the Diocesan Crest

The silver cross of St. Andrew on a field of blue honours the patron saint of the Cathedral church of the Diocese. It is surmounted by a gold antique crown from the Coat of Arms of the Province of British Columbia, where it signifies Victoria, or Victory, the name of the See City of the Diocese. The border of small waves surrounding the blue field indicates the geographical setting of the Diocese which includes Vancouver Island and the numerous small islands surrounding it. The gold mitre above the shield symbolizes the Episcopal Office.

Our Bishops

Most Reverend Gary Gordon
(2013 -)

| | |
|-----------|--------------------------------|
| 2004-2013 | Most Rev. Richard Gagnon |
| 1999-2004 | Most Rev. Raymond Roussin SM |
| 1962-1999 | Most Rev. Remi J. De Roo |
| 1946-1962 | Most Rev. James M. Hill |
| 1937-1946 | Most Rev. John C. Cody |
| 1934-1936 | Most Rev. John Hugh MacDonald |
| 1930-1933 | Most Rev. Gerald Murray CSsR |
| 1924-1929 | Rt. Rev. Thomas O'Donnell |
| 1909-1923 | Rt. Rev. Alexander MacDonald |
| 1900-1908 | Most Rev. Bertram Orth |
| 1889-1899 | Most Rev. Alexander Christie |
| 1888-1897 | Rt. Rev. J.N. Lemmens |
| 1885-1886 | Most Rev. Charles J. Seghers |
| 1879-1883 | Rt. Rev. Jean Baptiste Brondel |
| 1873-1878 | Most Rev. Charles J. Seghers |
| 1847-1878 | Rt. Rev. Modeste Demers |

How the Diocese Works

In the Diocese of Victoria, we have 41 parishes and missions. Combined, these form a part of a larger church, of which the Bishop is pastor. Each parish is an integral part of this larger organization.

As pastor of the Diocese, the Bishop is supported by Diocesan staff. Together they assist parishes through the many services they provide. Without this support, parishes would be unable to provide various services to their communities.

All funds needed to run the universal Catholic Church come, at least initially, from parishioners. Parishes receive collections and give a percentage to the Diocese. Like many others, our Diocese receives its funding by assessing a percentage of a parish's income.

We are so grateful for the many clergy, staff, and volunteers, without whom this Diocese simply could not run.

History of the Diocese

Incorporated in 1892, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria comprises Vancouver Island, Gulf Islands, and adjacent islands.

The Oregon Mission was raised to an Apostolic Vicariate on December 1, 1843, and Bishop Francis Norbert Blanchet was the first Vicar Apostolic. On July 24, 1846, the Diocese of Vancouver Island was erected, including Vancouver Island, the adjacent islands, New Caledonia (i.e. the BC Mainland), the Queen Charlotte Islands and Alaska, with the bishop residing in Victoria.

The Diocese was raised to the status of an Archdiocese on June 19, 1903. The name was changed to Victoria on September 6, 1904. It was returned to the status of a Diocese on October 1, 1908.





(L to R): Bishop's Advisory Council members Leah MacKenzie, CFO; Fr. John Laszczyk, Vicar General and Judicial Vicar; Cynthia Bouchard, Chancellor; Bishop Gary Gordon; and Beverly Pulyk, ICS Superintendent

Bishop's Advisory Council

The Bishop's Advisory Council (BAC)

includes Fr. John Laszczyk (Vicar General, Judicial Vicar and Rector of St. Andrew's Cathedral), the Chancellor of the Diocese (Cynthia Bouchard), the Chief Financial Officer (Leah MacKenzie CPA, CGA), and the Superintendent of Island Catholic Schools (Beverly Pulyk).

This Council meets regularly and forms a highly effective team for the oversight and governance of the Diocese.

Council of Priests

The Council of Priests is advisory to the Bishop in all areas affecting the pastoral life of the Diocese, particularly the pastoral ministry of the clergy and the care of the spiritual needs of the people of God. The Constitution of the Council of Priests mandates that the Council will consist of nine priests chosen from the presbyterate. The Vicar General serves as

an ex-officio member, and the Chancellor attends at the invitation of the Council.

Members of the Council represent the entire Diocese and the selection of priests to serve is comprised of election and appointments. The Council of Priests meets approximately six to eight times per year for consultation and discussion.

As an advisory body the work and deliberation of the Council of Priests is guided, as often as possible, by the use of consensus decision-making. Consensus is understood to mean that all are in agreement or that if some disagree they are willing to support the decision by the majority of the group.

The Council of Priests works to be united and supportive of the mission entrusted to the care of the Bishop.

College of Consultors

The College of Consultors' members are selected from the Council of Priests, and serve to advise the Bishop on

extraordinary matters of administration, including large expenditures, alienation of property, clergy incardinations, and ordinations.

Finance Committee

Together with the Bishop and our Chief Financial Officer, our Finance Committee provides prudent fiscal management of the Diocese. We are grateful for the gift of their time and wisdom.

Other Diocesan Leadership Committees

- Building Commission
- Investment Advisory Committee
- Island Catholic Schools Board
- Oversight Committee
- Responsible Ministry and Safe Environment Committee

THE PASTORAL CENTRE



Pastoral Centre organization chart

PASTORAL CENTRE VALUES

- Being welcoming
- Faith-filled actions
- Servant leadership
- Collaboration
- Competency
- Integrity
- Trust and respect

The Roman Catholic Diocese of

Victoria has a meaningful history of proclaiming the Gospel, building community, celebrating in worship, and providing service to Catholics on Vancouver Island and the surrounding islands.

The Pastoral Centre Leadership Team, together with clergy, staff, and numerous volunteer committees, supports the work that furthers our mission, providing assistance for parishes and schools, while meeting the needs of parishioners and others who use our services.

PASTORAL CENTRE MISSION STATEMENT

The Pastoral Centre in the Diocese of Victoria supports and serves Catholic communities, parishes, and schools in proclaiming the Gospel message and building the reign of God.



The Diocese of Victoria, through Diocesan clergy and staff, serves 41 parishes and missions. In turn, these parishes and ministries serve the communities in which they reside, thus helping to further our mission and spread the Gospel message of Jesus Christ.

The Pastoral Centre is comprised of a number of offices, each with a particular part to play in our overall mission, in addition to supporting our parishes and missions. The Centre also houses the offices of our Island Catholic Schools (see page 10).

Office of the Bishop

The Office of the Bishop serves the faithful people of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria by providing spiritual, community, and administrative support. The Office of the Bishop serves as a channel of communication between people, services, resources, programs, and events.

The Vicar General (Fr. John Laszczyk), Episcopal Vicar (Fr. William Hann), and Chancellor (Cynthia Bouchard) assist the Bishop in his functions and duties for the Diocese, parishes and schools.

The current Pastoral Centre building (photo, front and inside front cover) celebrated its 30th Anniversary in 2017. The occupancy permit was issued by Saanich in July 1987. The total budget for the structure was \$961,466; the final cost was \$958,200.

Chancery

The Chancery serves as the administrative office of the Bishop and the Diocese. The dedicated staff members of the Chancery support and serve Catholic parishes, schools, and communities by providing essential services, resources, and ministries.

The Chancellor (Cynthia Bouchard) acts in the name of the Bishop and serves as the official ecclesial notary, and head archivist of the Diocese. The Chancellor serves under the authority of the Bishop and coordinates the exercise of administrative responsibilities entrusted to other members of the Chancery serving at the Pastoral Centre.

Finance & Administration

The Finance & Administration Office handles matters which relate to the temporal administration of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria, including banking and investments, building and property management, financial accounting, human resources, and insurance.

Leah MacKenzie, CGA, CPA, serves as Chief Financial Officer.

Marriage Tribunal

While the Catholic Church upholds the dignity, sacredness, and permanence of marriage, it cannot ignore the reality of separation and divorce in our society. The Marriage Tribunal is one of the many ways through which the Church ministers to those struggling in broken marriages and serves as a means of hope and healing.

The Judicial Vicar of the Marriage Tribunal is Fr. John Laszczyk, who also serves as Vicar General of the Diocese and Rector of St. Andrew's Cathedral.

Faith Formation & Evangelization

The Office of Faith Formation and Evangelization operates under the counsel and direction of the Bishop of Victoria, and is responsible for facilitating faith formation for parishioners, catechists, and Catholic educators throughout the Diocese.

The aim of this office is to further the mission of the Church in forming disciples of Jesus Christ to share the Good News of God's Love to a broken world.

Glen Palahicky serves as the Director of Faith Formation and Evangelization.

Responsible Ministry and Safe Environment

The Diocese of Victoria wishes to ensure that the dignity of all persons is respected within our parishes and schools. This encompasses its programs and facilities, those we serve, particularly the young and the vulnerable as well as those who serve; clergy, religious, employees and volunteers in general.

The Diocese, furthermore, upholds the fundamental good of all that God has created yet it recognizes the reality that within our humanity there is always the possibility of misconduct towards others. These policies are meant to assist the Church in responding with charity and justice.

Greg Beattie serves as Coordinator, Responsible Ministry and Safe Environment.



ISLAND CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



St. Andrew's Regional High School in Victoria received a fresh coat of paint in 2017

What Makes A Catholic School Different?

A Catholic school pursues the same academic goals as other schools as it strives to assist students to achieve success in the traditional academic disciplines. Catholic schools follow the prescribed British Columbia provincial curriculum, and include as part of the core curriculum, a program of religious education approved by the local bishop.

The following are four of the distinctive traits that contribute to the culture and ethos of a Catholic school:

- The values that are promulgated are rooted in scripture as well as the teaching and tradition of the Catholic Church;
- Rich symbols of the faith are evident in the school and the motto and logo reflect the faith dimension that is present;

- Celebrations which range from simple classroom prayer to Eucharistic celebrations are part of the school experience;
- Teachers, administrators, and support staff understand their role as one of service. It is, in fact, a ministry.
- Beverly Pulyk serves as Superintendent of our Island Catholic Schools.



Learn More

www.cisdv.bc.ca
info@cisdv.bc.ca
(250) 727-6893

The Catholic Independent Schools of the Diocese of Victoria are heirs of a long, rich history within the Church, providing parents a quality education for their children within a faith-based setting.

Shortly after Victoria was established as a trading centre, the Sisters of Saint Ann came west to Vancouver Island to begin a tradition of Catholic education which now stretches back more than 150 years. What exists today is the result of the commitment of clergy, religious sisters, lay educators and parents to ensure that Christ-centred, Catholic schools are available for children.

In 2017 five elementary schools and one high school served approximately 1,600 students from Kindergarten through Grade 12.



A few highlights ...

- John Paul II School in Port Alberni collected an astounding 1,253 non-perishable food items weighing 1,341 pounds for the World Food Day Walk.
- St. Joseph School in Chemainus participated in the Ladysmith Light Up Parade and St. Vincent de Paul Sock Drive.
- Queen of Angels School's cooked 25 turkeys to feed the school community for their annual Advent gathering.
- St. Patrick's School held an Advent Carol Service at St. Andrew's Cathedral.
- St. Joseph School in Victoria harvested food for the homeless from a garden on parish property.
- St. Andrew's Regional High School successes: Jr Boys' Volleyball won the bronze medal at provincials, Sr. Boys' Soccer were the Provincial Champs, and Music students performed at the BC Honours Music Fest.

St. Joseph's School, Chemainus

2017 was a difficult year for St. Joseph's School in Chemainus, as we all had to face the school's fiscal realities. The school community was provided information about the financial challenges the school was faced with. Throughout early 2017, a school committee worked on a sustainability plan for the long-term survival of the school. The plan was put into action from then on. The community rallied in hopes that enough gains could be made to support ongoing operations. Good progress was made throughout 2017. Sadly, due to declining enrollments, ongoing financial challenges, and additional constraints, the school has since had to close its doors.

Final Phase of Catholic School Plan Moves Forward

With the completion of the seismic upgrade to St. Patrick's School in the summer of 2016, focus turned to St. Andrew's Regional High School—the third project of the Catholic Schools Plan (CSP). 2017 brought formal approvals by Diocesan committees for the renewal of St. Andrew's Regional High School:

- Phase One of the project involves a seismic upgrade in a section of the existing building that will remain; this work began in the summer of 2017 to be completed in the summer of 2018.
- Phase Two, the building of a new wing, is expected to begin in March 2018. Once the new wing is completed, it will be followed by the demolition of the old wing.
- Phase Three will be a new entrance with administration offices and a new chapel on the second floor.

Throughout 2017, Garyali Architect Inc. continued to meet with the Oversight Committee to fine tune plans for the renewal. Those design plans were ready to share with the broader community in June 2017. This was followed by more meetings as the March 2018 date loomed closer.

Independent Schools in BC receive 50% funding for operations, but no funding for capital projects. All funding for capital upgrades in Independent Schools must be secured through donations, fundraising and loans. To date the project is well underway. Even though a significant amount of money has been saved for this project, additional monies will have to be raised to complete the final phases of the project: Fine Arts Wing and Sports Field.

John Paul II, Port Alberni Preschool, K-9

4006 8th Avenue
Port Alberni, BC V9Y 4S4
(250) 723-0637
www.jp2nd.ca

Queen of Angels, Duncan Preschool, K-9

2085 Maple Bay Road
Duncan, BC V9L 5L9
(250) 746-5919
www.queenofangels.ca

St. Joseph's, Victoria Preschool, K-7

757 West Burnside Road
Victoria, BC V8Z 1M9
(250) 479-1232
www.stjosephschool.ca

St. Patrick's, Victoria Preschool, K-7

2368 Trent Street
Victoria, BC V8R 4Z3
(250) 592-6717
www.stpatrickselem.ca

St. Andrew's Regional High School Grades 8-12

880 McKenzie Avenue
Victoria, BC V8X 3G5
(250) 479-1414
www.standrewshigh.ca

St. Joseph's, Chemainus Preschool, K-7

Note: this location was closed in 2018



ACCOMPLISHMENTS & EVENTS



Ordination of Fr. Michael Tran

Saturday, June 10, 2017, was a beautiful day for an ordination at St. Andrew's Cathedral, and was the day Fr. Michael Tran had been looking forward to for his entire life.

Fr. Michael came to Canada in 2003, and worked diligently towards his vocation. His ordination was a beautiful celebration of his past, present, and future ministry. "I thought my seminarian life would never end, but now I know that I am a servant forever," he said.

We wish Fr. Michael many blessings in his journey as a priest of God and servant of the people whom he will encounter during his life, and pray for him the grace and mercy of our Saviour, and the ineffable love of God.

The Diaconate

In 2013, the Diocese established a Permanent Diaconate Program under then-Bishop Richard Gagnon, with an intensive four-year course of study commencing in 2014.

The Diaconate is a three-fold service: the Word of God; service at the Altar; and service of Charity. The presence of ordained Deacons will allow for greater service to the Diocese.

On **September 16, 2017**, Philip Yuson (Marie), John Dawson (Heather), Michael Watkins (Cynthia), and Dion Pomponio (Kerry) celebrated the *Rite of Installation to the Ministry of Lectors*, at St. Patrick's Parish in Campbell River.



Consecrating the Diocese to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

On **Saturday, July 1**, Bishop Gary Gordon consecrated the Diocese of Victoria to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

The Bishops of Canada were invited by the CCCB to consecrate the country to the Immaculate Heart of the Virgin Mary as part of the celebrations marking the 150th Anniversary of Confederation.

Let us, in one heart, mind, and spirit, consecrate Canada to our Blessed Mother, who with our Patron, St. Joseph, our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Family, will watch over, guide, bless, and protect our country and its people for millennia to come.





St. Andrew's Cathedral: 125 Years of Faith

In 2017, St. Andrew's Cathedral, the Mother Church of the Diocese and seat of the Bishop, celebrated her 125th Anniversary. Dedicated by Bishop John Nicholas Lemmens on October 30, 1982, the cathedral was restored and renovated to its present condition in the mid-1980s. The Anniversary year was celebrated with a wealth of beautiful concerts, a parish picnic, and other activities that were defined not only by talent and fun, but by the warmth and fellowship of all who gathered.

We are grateful for the decades of ministry served through St. Andrew's Cathedral, and thank God for all who enter through her doors, and find within faith, compassion, and love.



First Diocesan Medals Awarded

On July 9, 2017, Bishop Gary Gordon awarded the first-ever Diocesan Medals honouring various individuals from throughout the Diocese for service to the local and/or Diocesan church, the community, and the world.

Ellis Achtem
Claude Bedard
Diane & Keith Bell
Winnifred (Freddie) Brand
Denise Buckley
Lillian Budac
Larry & Maureen Dietrich
Clarice Durnerin
Christine Gillespie
Joe & Carmen Gillevet

Rose Marie Hague
Christine (Tina) Hanlon
Louis Hobbs
Mary Hof
Claire Holmes
Phil Jennings
Doreen & Fred Keizer
Anna Kinsella
Bruce & Yvonne Lenz
Mary McCaffrey

Joan Mitchell
John Mochrie
Joe Mowatt
Perlita Pamaran
Bruna Perusi
Frank & Mary Peters
Harry Ray
Paul Redchurch
Joan Ripley
Patricia Rooke

Chris Ryzuk
Pauline Scherr
Stephanie & Dennis Schroeder
Ian Stewart
Anna Stobl
Gord & Nancy Stuart
Roland Wauthy



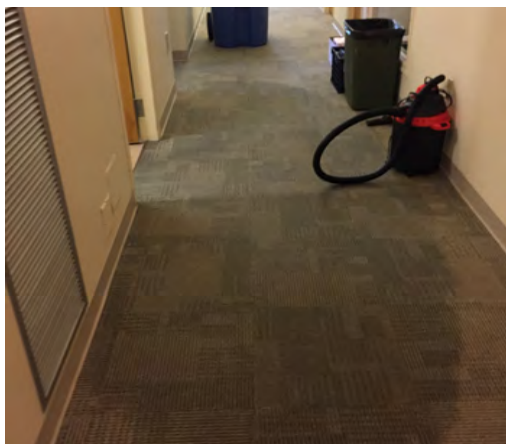
ACCOMPLISHMENTS & EVENTS



Ad Limina Visit to Rome

Every five years, each bishop pays a visit to Rome, and provides a report on the state of their Diocese. Frequency of visits depend on how long a bishop has been present in a diocese, and how long a Pope has been in place. Our Diocese had not participated in an Ad Limina visit to Rome since 1997; our Quinquennial Report covered the period 1998 – 2016, and was more than 125 pages in length.

In March 2017 all Canadian bishops visited Rome, meeting with Pope Francis and many Congregations. Bishop Gary reported, "While this visit was a very busy time of meetings, it was good to share this experience in Rome with my brother bishops. We received good information and enjoyed much fellowship in our time here." Arrivederci, Roma!



Pastoral Centre Flood

On Saturday, July 29, 2017, Fr. David Hogman (Sacred Heart parish) noticed water seeping from underneath the garage at the Pastoral Centre. Upon investigation, the culprit was revealed as a broken toilet on the second floor, which had flooded both bathrooms, the photocopier room, and adjacent hallways, and was dripping through the garage ceiling.

The restoration company attended immediately, and set to work. They ripped up and removed flooring in the bathrooms and photocopier room, removed baseboards, and installed enormous heaters (yes, heaters!) and fans to help dry out the carpet. Yes, it was July, Yes, it was during a heatwave. No, there was no other way to effectively manage the results of the flood.

Yes, it reached 40°C inside the building some days. Yes, your dedicated (and perspiring) staff continued to work!

Repairs continued for approximately two months including electrical work, gyproc repair, painting, and replacement of bathroom fixtures.

Replacement of bathroom fixtures and repair of facilities included generous and most appreciated donations of time and materials by many helping hands, and discounts from contractors. This was grace for us in an emergency, and we are so grateful.



Br. Guy Consolmagno SJ **Faith, Science and the Wonders of Creation**

We were fortunate to have hosted Br. Guy J. Consolmagno SJ, known familiarly as the 'Pope's Astronomer', in our Diocese for three days at the end of November. Despite fighting a heavy cold and jet lag, Br. Guy delivered three incredible presentations to our Diocese: the Faith Day for ICS and Diocesan staff, our Annual Diocesan Conference, and the Bishop's Lecture at the University of Victoria. Speaking eloquently and passionately, Br. Guy demonstrated to us how faith and science are not at odds; and how each is strengthened by the presence of the other. Similarly, we are strengthened by the presence of God and of each other, and by our relationship to the earth.

Thank you, Br. Guy, for the time you spent with us expanding our understanding, and strengthening our faith.



Sr. Nuala Kenny **Rediscovering the Art of Dying**

Our Diocese was privileged to welcome Sr. Nuala Kenny, a Sister of Charity of Halifax, who is a physician with experience in pediatrics, palliative care, health care ethics, and medical education. Sr. Nuala facilitated our Clergy Study days and also spoke to more than 300 parishioners in Parksville and Victoria, during the week of November 6 – 10, 2017.

The legalization of medically assisted death and euthanasia in our country compels us to reflect on what it means to die. Sr. Nuala recently published an excellent book entitled *Rediscovering the Art of Dying – How Jesus' Experience and Our Own Stories Reveal a New Vision of Compassionate Care* (Novalis). Drawing on the Passion of Christ and the Pascal Mystery, Sr. Nuala challenged us to intentionally rediscover our Catholic traditions and wisdom regarding a good death and the art of dying.

Visit of the Apostolic Nuncio

His Excellency Most Reverend Luigi Bonazzi, Apostolic Nuncio to Canada, was in Victoria from May 29 to June 5, to lead a retreat for the priests from the Diocese of Victoria on beautiful Quadra Island. After the week-long retreat, His Excellency accompanied Bishop Gordon to Holy Cross Parish in Victoria and St. Ann's Parish in Duncan to celebrate the Rite of Confirmation.

On Monday, June 5, which was the Feast of St. Boniface, Most Reverend Bonazzi and Bishop Gary Gordon concelebrated a Mass with staff at the Pastoral Centre. During the shared Homily, the Nuncio encouraged all staff to courageously and enthusiastically use their gifts and charisms to continue to support Bishop Gordon and the Church in Victoria. This is the call to discipleship and an outward testimony of faith in support of the Church and its teachings in the world—sharing those gifts with others through our work in the administration of the Diocese and in our pastoral ministries.



YOUTH AND FAMILY



Diocesan Youth Conference

The Diocesan Youth Conference in May was a major event of ministry for our Faith Formation and Evangelization team.

The young adult leadership team, headed by Nathaniel and Drew Wynans, led 120 youth closer to Christ through fun activities, music, faith sharing and keynote presentation.

There's not much sleep on NYC weekend, but there's a lot of joy!

Family Camp

Our 5th Annual Family Conference was a major success with more than 300 participants in attendance from every parish in our Diocese. Our theme was *Our Mission: in our Family, in our Community, and in the World* featuring keynote speakers Joshua and Denise Grimard. Fr. Dean Henderson and Fr. Paul Szczur served as Spiritual Directors. We referred to the *Cat Chat* program for our children's formation, and to Ryan Mitchell from Net ministries for our youth formation.

There are so many highlights we simply can't name them all! The hunger for connection on a personal level for all families is high in our faith community, and our annual Camp aims to gather and serve that need.



Camp Homewood

In 2017, the theme for Camp Homewood on Quadra Island was *This is Amazing Grace*, featuring Face2Face Ministries. There were 121 youth (aged 12 - 17) and 36 adult team/leaders from all over the Diocese.

As one participant remarked, "I felt [God's] presence and comfort during Reconciliation and Adoration. I felt forgiven, loved and [a] fresh new beginning."

It was a wonderful retreat, even with the heavy snowfall that required great bus driving skills from Fr. Dean Henderson!



Journey of Hearts & Hands Annual Appeal

The *Journey of Hearts & Hands* Appeal donations of \$1,245,736 were included as revenue in 2017 to support programs and ministry expenses incurred for the specific initiatives of the Annual Appeal.

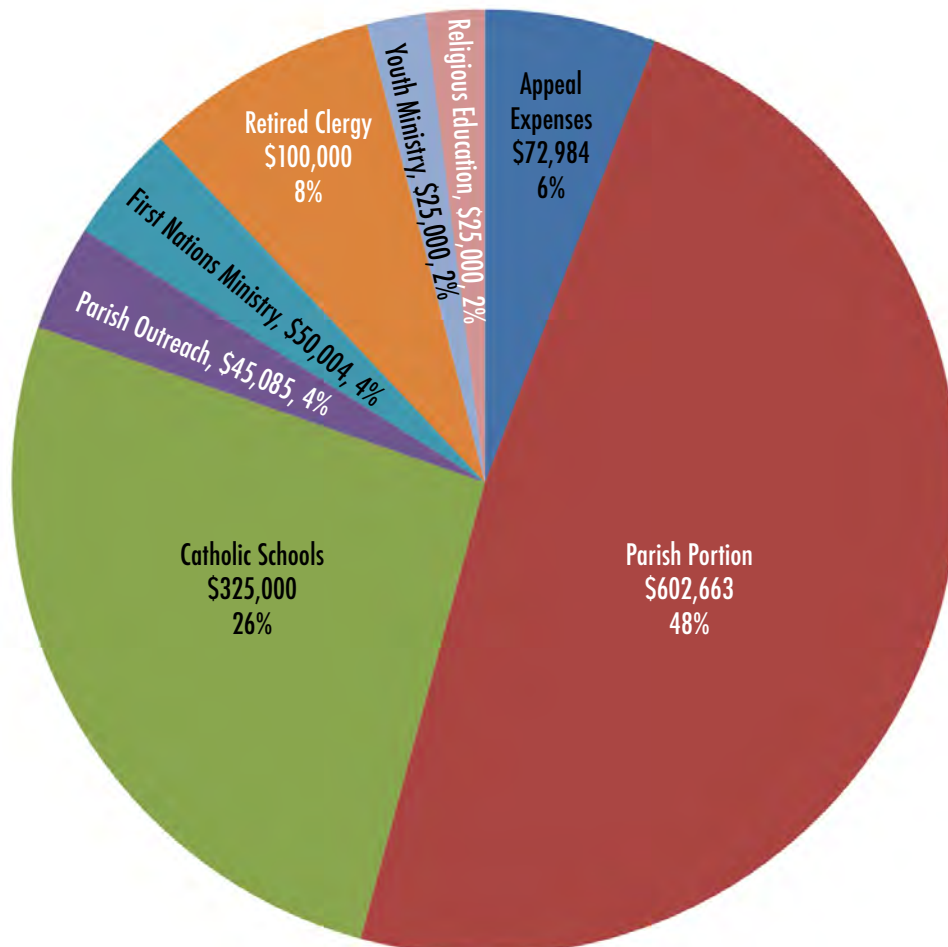
Over the past eight years our *Journey of Hearts and Hands* Appeal returned \$2,574,951 to parishes for their local initiatives and provided \$5,455,305 to help fund a broad variety of initiatives: Island Catholic Schools, Parish Outreach, Retired Priests, Island Catholic Missions, Youth Ministries, and Religious Education.

Through the generosity of donors to the Appeal, we have accomplished great things, from sponsoring a youth and breakfast program for Indigenous Ministry in the Cowichan Valley to initiating St. Andrew's Regional High School's seismic upgrade and renovation project. In 2017, parishes received \$602,663 for their local initiatives, which included:

- replaced a church roof, and other parish building projects;
- supported youth programs, donated to the local Catholic preschool, donated to the local food bank;
- reduced parish debt;
- renovated a rectory, a parish centre, and a sacristy;
- planted colourful fruit trees in a parish cemetery;
- purchased a beautiful statue for the front entrance;
- created a Marian Grotto.

All this, and more, was possible with your generosity to our Annual Appeal. Our 2017 theme, *Grateful to God, Generous to Neighbour*, reminded us to care for all of God's family, and for each other. The funds we raised together through our *Journey of Hearts & Hands* Annual Appeal is essential to our ongoing mission, and we are ever appreciative of your generosity.

2017 Appeal Fund Distribution



FUNDRAISING

Bishop's Gala

On Saturday, May 6, 2017, more than 225 people gathered at Our Lady of Fatima Parish Hall in Victoria to celebrate the 2017 Bishop's Gala.

The purpose of our Annual Gala is to raise funds to support our ministry to the First Nations community on the West Coast

of our Diocese, especially in Ahousaht. Together, we raised \$57,000 in 2017. Thank you so much for your wholehearted, enthusiastic support of our Bishop's Gala, and of our mission of accompaniment in our First Nations communities. We are so grateful for each of you!



Pastoral Care Outreach Training Program

In 2017, we had a record number of participants in the Pastoral Care Outreach Training program, with 240 people attending from across the Diocese.

In 2007, following a number of regional consultations that took place over a year and a half earlier, the Diocesan Health Care Committee (DHCC) was established. Recurring suggestions related to the need to provide consistent training for Diocesan parish volunteers who visit the sick. The Diocesan Pastoral Care Outreach Training Program was deemed a major priority goal that stemmed from the DHCC, and subsequently developed to facilitate an ease of presentation. Following pilot stages, the program was officially introduced by several parishes in the Diocese in 2013 – 2014.

Participants who attend all four of the training sessions receive a Certificate of Completion. While sessions stand on their own to provide valuable understanding of pastoral care, each covers a different aspect of providing accompaniment for those who need us: the vulnerable, lonely and isolated; the sick,

the elderly, shut-ins, and the dying; and those in hospitals, continuing care, assisted living residences, and at home.

Workshops are offered in the Victoria area, and also mid-Island; all four sessions are run in each area, and timing is staggered so if some sessions are missed in one area, they may be attended in the other.

Pope Francis said it well: *A little bit of tenderness could open up a horizon of hope.* May we allow ourselves to be God's instruments of hope, and to be ourselves surprised by grace, especially when we visit the sick, the injured, and those who are facing death.

For more information about our Pastoral Care Ministry, or the Pastoral Care Training Program, visit our website:

www.rcdvictoria.org/pastoral-care

Refugee Sponsorship

In 2016 and 2017, nine parishes (Christ the King, Church of the Ascension, Holy Cross, Holy Family/Notre Dame, Our Lady of the Rosary, St. Andrew's Cathedral, St. Patrick's Victoria, St. Rose of Lima, and Trinity) committed to privately sponsoring refugee families and completed the laborious process of readying to welcome them. This meant each parish set up a refugee committee, ensured each committee member was properly trained, and committed to raising \$50,000 to support the first year of their family's expenses. It turned out this was the tip of the iceberg, as committees had to find accommodations and furnishings, and plan in minute detail what they would do each day after their families arrived.

Inexplicably, refugee families take longer than two years to process through immigration. This meant our parishes experienced a frustrating wait for their families to arrive, long after they were ready to receive them. Through online conversation, parishes talked to their families regularly, with no understanding of when they were to arrive in Canada.

In 2017, families arrived for Holy Family/Notre Dame (Port Alberni) and St. Rose of Lima (Sooke) parishes. A beehive of activity followed as volunteers, and the parishes supporting

them, strove to acclimate these new Canadians. Both parishes were highly successful. Unfortunately the immigration process failed for Our Lady of the Rosary parish at the last minute, and they were unable to receive their family—this meant going back to the drawing board. In 2018, we expect families to arrive at the remaining parishes.

"Of all the adventures I've ever been involved in, this has been the most heartwarming."

Michele Fraser of Holy Family/Notre Dame parish summed up it up this way, "Of all the adventures I've ever been involved in, this has been the most heartwarming. It began with inspirations through prayer, and ended up in joy after joy, as we followed what we believed was the will of God. It wasn't always easy, especially in the early days, but now brings tears to my eyes as I reflect."

We continue to be amazed and grateful for each committee's decision to follow the will of God and the love of Jesus in their actions to give displaced families the chance for a new life in Canada. Thank you so very much for your dedication and hard work.



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

*Year ended
December 31, 2017
with comparative
information for 2016*

| | 2017 | 2016 |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| Assets | | |
| Current assets | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 171,127 | \$ 180,502 |
| Accounts receivable | 305,458 | 277,123 |
| Prepaid expenses | 28,839 | 78,496 |
| | 505,424 | 536,121 |
| Investments | 4,729,767 | 4,066,958 |
| Capital assets | 9,400,498 | 9,460,650 |
| | \$14,635,689 | \$14,063,729 |
| Liabilities and Net Assets | | |
| Current liabilities | | |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | 242,681 | 191,706 |
| Deferred revenue | 1,662,527 | 1,455,200 |
| | 1,905,208 | 1,646,906 |
| Deferred revenue and contributions | 1,350,267 | 1,383,067 |
| Total liabilities | 3,255,475 | 3,029,973 |
| Net assets | | |
| Invested in capital assets | 8,050,231 | 8,077,583 |
| Restricted for endowment purposes | 1,092,971 | 517,820 |
| Internally restricted | 794,165 | 723,463 |
| Unrestricted | 1,442,847 | 1,714,890 |
| | 11,380,214 | 11,033,756 |
| | \$14,635,689 | \$14,063,729 |

The Financial Overview provides a summary of the activities of the Diocese of Victoria, Pastoral Centre for the year ended December 31, 2017. The Financial Statements of the Diocesan Pastoral Centre are audited annually by the external firm of KPMG. The Audited Financial Statements are reviewed by the Diocesan Audit Committee and the Diocesan Finance Committee, and are available for review on our website at www.rcdvictoria.org/financials.

In 2017, an overall deficiency of \$228,693 was reported. There were two significant non-recurring events in 2017 which reduced an operating surplus of \$10,999 to this deficit position. A generous donation of property valued at \$326,000 was received by the Diocese and subsequently transferred to the recipient parish. This transaction was recorded as both a revenue item under Donations and an expense as a Donation to Parish with a net zero effect on the operating results. The other non-recurring item was a transfer of a bequest to a trust fund. This fulfilled the intention of the bequest and augmented a

small trust fund established in 1994 by a priest especially for needs of his brother priests. The net effect of this transaction was \$239,692 and reduced an operating surplus of \$10,999 to an overall deficiency of \$228,693.

Through numerous and varied programs, the staff at the Pastoral Centre exist to serve people in our parishes and schools, as well as others in the community; we strive to live the mission of service every day.

On behalf of Bishop Gary Gordon and members of the Diocesan Finance Committee, thank you for your continued support through your weekly parish collections, the Journey of Hearts & Hands Appeal, direct donations for local and international charities, and for your prayers for the many pastoral and administrative works of the Diocese of Victoria and your parish.

In gratitude,

Leah MacKenzie, CPA, CGA
Chief Financial Officer



STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

*Year ended
December 31, 2017
with comparative
information for 2016*

Revenue

| | 2017 | 2016 |
|-------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Parish assessments | \$ 1,136,104 | \$ 1,144,355 |
| Donations | 472,158 | 66,049 |
| School assessments | 899,250 | 835,412 |
| Ministries and programs | | |
| Donations | 98,301 | 110,817 |
| Grants | 152,026 | 206,291 |
| Program revenue | 63,351 | 17,967 |
| Donations — Appeal | 1,245,736 | 945,486 |
| Investment income | 141,205 | 310,938 |
| Property income | 250,744 | 251,668 |
| Administration fees | 28,747 | 38,123 |
| | 4,487,622 | 3,927,106 |

Expenses

| | | |
|---|---------------------|-------------------|
| General Diocesan | \$ 488,092 | \$ 468,250 |
| Ministries and programs (refer to pie chart on page 23 for detail) | 2,389,415 | 2,027,520 |
| | 1,329 | 148 |
| Interest on bank loans | 60,133 | 61,900 |
| Property expenses | | |
| Administration | 230,175 | 185,307 |
| Appeal campaign expenses | 72,984 | 62,639 |
| School Expenses | 908,495 | 834,335 |
| | 4,150,623 | 3,640,099 |
| Excess of revenue over expenses before the undernoted | 336,999 | 287,007 |
| Other expenses: | | |
| Contribution to Priest's Trust Fund | 239,692 | - |
| Donation to Parish | 326,000 | - |
| | \$ (228,693) | \$ 287,007 |

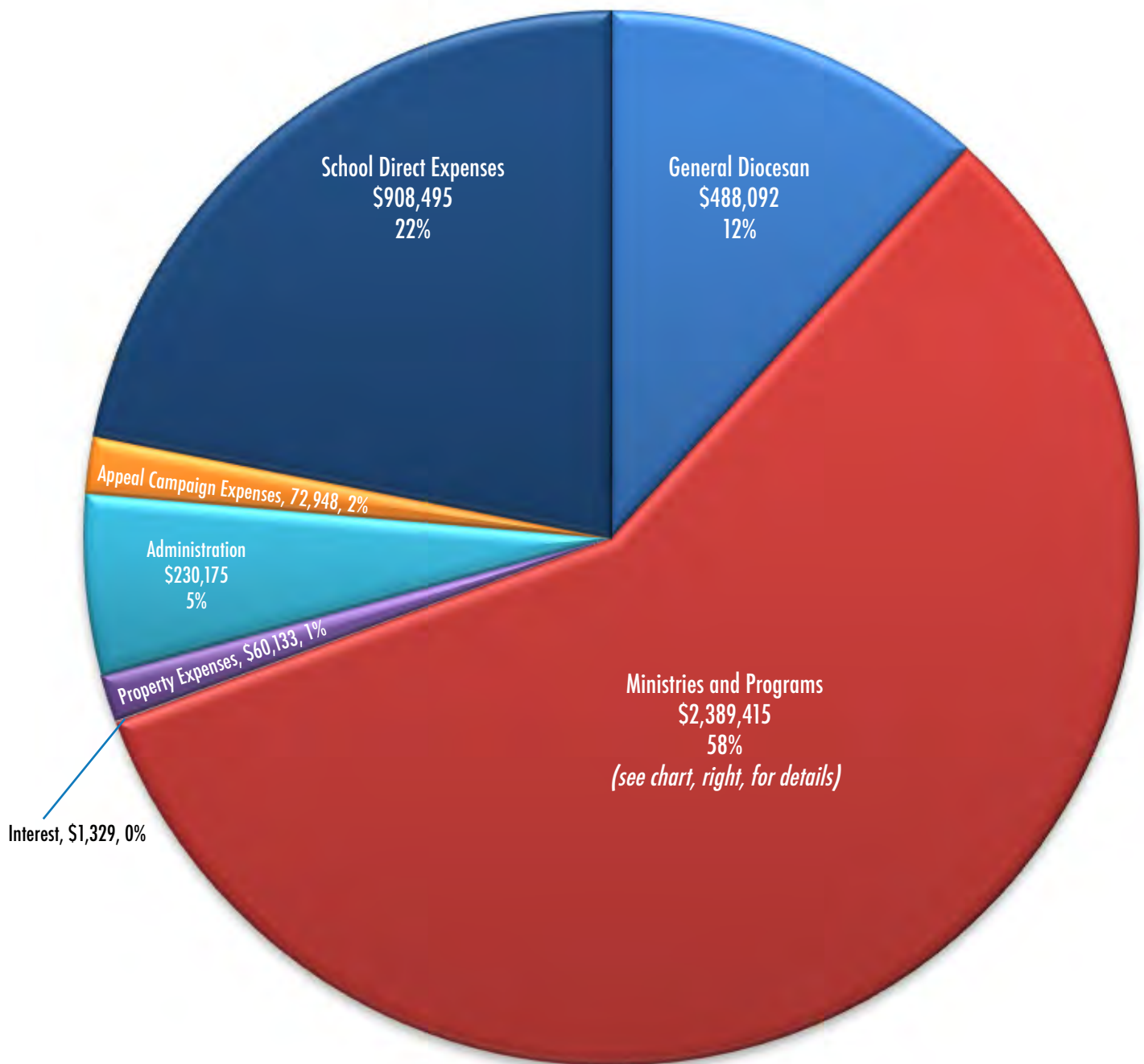
Please note

Complete audited financial statements are available on our website at www.rcdvictoria.org/financials.

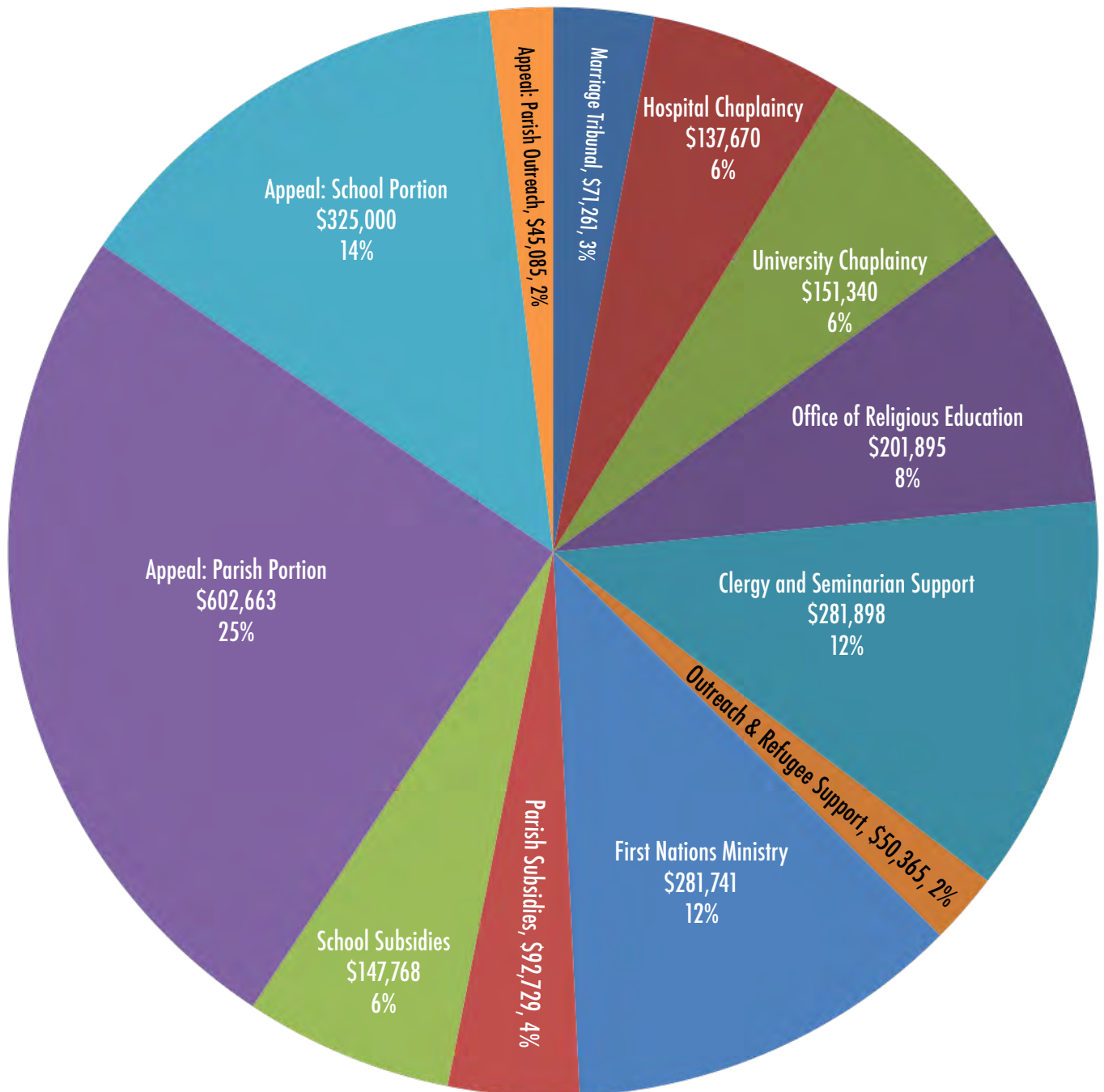


FINANCIALS

Diocesan Pastoral Centre Operating Expenses 2017



Diocesan Ministries and Programs Expenditures 2017



ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF VICTORIA



1 – 4044 Nelthorpe Street
Victoria BC V8X 2A1

www.rcdvictoria.org