

# ANNUAL REPORT



2025



**Archdiocese of GATINEAU**

[www.diocesegatineau.org](http://www.diocesegatineau.org)

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# INTRODUCTION



The Archdiocese of Gatineau includes 56 Catholic parishes throughout the Outaouais region. Since 2011, it has been led by Archbishop Paul-André Durocher.

The archdiocese is characterized by its diversity, encompassing a large urban centre surrounded by a significant rural area. It features a predominantly French-speaking environment with a notable Anglo-Irish minority. The community also reflects substantial waves of immigration from Portugal, Lebanon, Latin America, Haiti and Africa. There is a marked disparity in wealth between the urban and rural areas. Public service stands as the primary economic driver, while manufacturing industries have experienced significant decline in recent decades.

The Outaouais, like much of Quebec, is experiencing growing secularization. The committed faithful are mainly divided between long-time older residents and younger immigrant families who are drawn to the region. The majority of the clergy are immigrants, with a few priests from religious communities, such as the Marist Fathers, Montfort Fathers, and the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. A small number of contemplative nuns continue to devote themselves to Eucharistic adoration, interceding in a special way for the fruitful ministry of all priests. Various movements also contribute to the spiritual vitality and commitment of their members.

The Jubilee Year 2025 was marked by its theme, "Pilgrims of Hope." We were deeply moved by the funeral of our beloved Pope Francis and the election of his successor, Pope Leo XIV. Together with the Church throughout the world, we open ourselves to the Spirit who animates the mission of evangelization in a synodal style. Yes, the future is full of hope!

# PASTORAL INITIATIVES I

The second part of the 2024–2025 pastoral year was marked by several activities related to the Jubilee Year.

- **Lent 2025:** A diocesan retreat led by Father Claude Pigeon on the theme *Around the Table: Word and Bread*. An English-language retreat, *Thy Will Be Done*, was also held at St. Aloysius and led by Archbishop Paul-André Durocher, focusing on personal and communal discernment.
- **March 28 – 24 Hours for the Lord:** At the cathedral, there was continuous adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, with priests available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, which offered a meaningful time centred on divine mercy.
- **June 20–22 – Feast of Corpus Christi:** A weekend dedicated to the Eucharist, including Vespers led by the *Servantes de Jésus-Marie*, conferences (including one on synodality), an outdoor Mass, and a diocesan picnic.
- **Spring 2025:** Five training sessions, *Living Better Together*, offered in partnership with Saint Paul University, introduced the foundations of nonviolent communication.
- **June 27 – Feast of the Sacred Heart:** A celebration held primarily with those in the English Zone, highlighting the contribution of the Priests of the Sacred Heart in the diocese, especially for the care and dedicated service of Father Bill Marreeve.
- **Leadership Retreat (Lac-à-l'épaulé):** In July 2025, a leadership retreat was held at Galilee Centre (Ontario) with the bishop, members of the Diocesan Pastoral Table, and representatives of Christian communities. Discussions focused on parish formation needs, the 2025–2026 pastoral calendar, the annual theme, and communications. Following the synodal process, the establishment of a diocesan pastoral council as a tool for synodality was identified as a priority and will be the focus of reflection throughout the year.
- **August 11:** Bilingual diocesan pilgrimage to Notre-Dame-du-Cap.
- **October 11 – Diocesan Patronal Feast:** A walking pilgrimage from the Saint-Paul-de-Syriaque Church to Saint Joseph Cathedral, followed by a Eucharistic celebration including the institution of lectors for two candidates to the permanent diaconate.
- **November 23 – Youth Jubilee:** On the Feast of Christ the King, the Diocesan Youth Ministry Table organized a FestiJeunes at the cathedral (Mega Club Ziléos, shared meal, flash mob, collective mural, and Mass). The Diocesan Youth Ministry Table acts as a catalyst by fostering collaboration among pastoral workers, supporting initiatives, and accompanying young people in their encounter with Christ.

# PASTORAL INITIATIVES II



- **Pastoral Launch 2025–2026**

The pastoral year opened with gatherings in the five pastoral zones of the diocese. Archbishop Paul-André Durocher presented the theme proposed for a two-year period by the Diocesan Pastoral Council: *The Church in the Outaouais: Sowing His Light Together*. A song inspired by this theme was also unveiled.

Interactive activities provided an opportunity to rediscover the geographic, historical, cultural, and social realities of the Outaouais, in order to root the proclamation of the Gospel in the life of the community. Parishes were invited to name the initiatives of which they are most proud and to identify areas of mission that still need to be developed.

- **Health Ministry**

The diocesan service continued its mission of accompaniment. Training was offered to extraordinary ministers visiting the sick, including further reflection on mental health issues. On the occasion of the World Day of the Sick, a diocesan celebration with the Anointing of the Sick brought together those who are suffering in a spirit of prayer and comfort.

- **Christian Initiation**

In the fall of 2025, a morning formation session on interculturality was led by Ms. Alessandra Santo Padre. A time of spiritual renewal for catechumens (January 15, 2026) was offered during Lent, and the Rite of Election was celebrated on February 22 at Saint-Richard Church.

- **Ethical Reflection**

A workshop entitled *Is Life Always Worth Living?* was held on January 31 at St. Aloysius to reflect, in the light of faith, on questions related to aging, suffering, and the meaning of life.

# PASTORAL INITIATIVES III



- **Support for Anglophone Parishes**

Over the course of the year, the diocese accompanied some Anglophone parishes experiencing a time of transition and discernment, fostering a climate of trust, attentive listening, and collaborative leadership.

- The diocese is also preparing, together with all the dioceses of Quebec, for the Great Missionary Assembly in the fall of 2026, on the theme “The love of Christ impels us to proclaim the Gospel,” which will bring together about ten participants from each diocese.

## Upcoming Events

### Pastoral Priority 2025–2027

Following the diocesan workshops held in September 2025 on the theme “The Church in the Outaouais: Sowing His Light Together,” a tour of the pastoral zones will take place in the spring of 2026 in order to discern together how to renew the mission today.

### Meeting dates:

- April 10: West Zone – Holy Spirit Portuguese Mission
- April 13: Central Zone – Holy Trinity Parish
- April 16: East Zone – St. André Avellin Parish
- April 18: North Zone – Sainte-Marie-de-l’Incarnation Parish (Gracefield)
- April 20: English Zone – Our Lady of the Annunciation Parish

# SYNOD

Synodality means co-responsibility, mutual listening, communal discernment, the participation of all, and a mission open to the world!

## 1) A Dynamic Pastoral Priority



In choosing the pastoral priority for the next two years, we sought to strengthen our sense of belonging within our diocesan Church, to foster welcome and the integration of diversity, and to embrace our responsibility toward our communities. *“Together, in the Outaouais, let us sow His light”* is a call to live a dynamic synodality that can make a difference in our world.

## 2) Renewed Diocesan Pastoral Council



The Diocesan Pastoral Council is called to become a community of discernment for the major pastoral and missionary directions of our Church. In this way, it can serve as a driving force for synodality within parish communities and movements. Since the summer, an interim Council has been reviewing its mandate, structure, and functioning, as it is called to play a central role in our diocesan life.

## 3) Provincial Missionary Gathering



In 2025, the bishops of Quebec decided to convene all diocesan teams for a Great Missionary Assembly to be held this September. Our diocese has engaged in the preparatory process for this event, which will help us better understand how to proclaim the Gospel in today’s society. To be continued...

# SAFE ENVIRONMENTS

In 2026, we reviewed all diocesan documents related to reporting procedures and intervention protocols, which are available on our website:

<https://www.diocesegatineau.org/en/submit-a-complaint/>

We also comply with the requirements of Quebec's Act respecting occupational health and safety regarding psychological harassment. Each parish corporation is required to formally adopt this policy in accordance with provincial regulations.

With regard to reports, no complaints of sexual abuse were received. One case related to the code of conduct is currently being addressed. In Quebec and across Canada, there is a growing awareness of the importance of giving particular attention to relationships with vulnerable adults within our communities.

We have begun developing online training modules. The first—on the Code of Ethics and Conduct—is available on our YouTube channel:

[https://youtu.be/3Q\\_bW0mYrpQ?si=rDyR17n6Ea3tHfdR](https://youtu.be/3Q_bW0mYrpQ?si=rDyR17n6Ea3tHfdR)

We have also offered workshops on conflict resolution in parishes entitled "Living Better Together." A second series of these workshops is planned for the coming months.

Finally, the diocese is participating in the implementation of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops' national action plan, including the development of a communication strategy and support for communities in crisis situations.

We recognize that promoting safe environments remains a priority for our diocese, as we strive to foster a true culture of care, vigilance, and mutual respect.

# PARISH NEWS

The reorganization of parish infrastructure across the diocese continues. Ongoing demographic changes are prompting a reconfiguration of parish structures. In this context, the following developments are noted:

- The Fabrique of Sainte-Valérie has transferred ownership of its church to the Municipality of Boileau, which will convert it into a community hub.
- The Fabrique of Saint-Antoine de Perkins is currently negotiating an agreement with the Municipality of Val-des-Monts that would lead to a similar transformation to that of Saint-Dominique with the Municipality of Pontiac.
- The Fabrique of Cœur-Très-Pur-de-Marie in Plaisance is currently in discussions with a corporation that would assume ownership of the church and make it available to the Folk Art Centre.
- The small community of Grand-Remous has decided to cease its activities. The Fabrique is seeking a partner who could give new purpose to the church building.



At the same time, a growing vitality can be observed in many parishes. The number of catechumens is increasing, youth ministry groups are multiplying and becoming more active, and social outreach initiatives are being strengthened. The quality and number of choirs are both impressive and encouraging.

Churchwardens are engaged and creative, and pastoral teams are finding it challenging to keep pace with the many needs and initiatives emerging within their communities. Readers are invited to become more familiar with the many facets of parish life, as there is always room for new ideas, fresh energy, and renewed commitment.

# STAFF NEWS

In 2025, some people left us, while others joined to provide leadership and services to our parishes and diocesan team.

## PARISH PRIESTS



In August 2025, Father John Braganza, OSB, a Benedictine monk and priest, assumed responsibility for the parishes of St. Aloysius, Our Lady of Victory, and St. Malachy, as well as the mission of St. Columban. A former abbot and professor in British Columbia, he is currently undertaking a three-year period of discernment in the Archdiocese of Gatineau at the invitation of the Archbishop.

Due to visa difficulties affecting Father Christian Rakotondrazafy, Father Lévis Martel is serving on an interim basis, providing Sunday ministry in the communities of Sainte-Cécile de Masham and Saint-Clément.

Father Pedro Paulino now serves the two Portuguese missions, Notre-Dame-de-Fatima and St-Esprit.

During 2025, three of our brother priests were called to the Father's house. Funeral celebrations were held for Father Jean-Pierre Charron (February 3), Father Jacques Carrière (April 26), and Father Marcel Lahaie (July 9). We also remember in prayer Ms. Denyse Tremblay, a former diocesan pastoral agente (October 25).

## DIOCESAN TEAM



During 2025, members of the diocesan team participated in training on artificial intelligence, offered in collaboration with the Cégep de l'Outaouais. This formation aimed to deepen understanding of these emerging tools and their implications, in order to use them responsibly in administrative, pastoral, communications, and management contexts. It also provided an opportunity to reflect on the ethical questions and societal impacts of artificial intelligence, enabling the Church to better accompany individuals, communities, and movements in a rapidly changing world.

Faithful to its mission, the diocesan team continues its work with dedication in service of the diocese. Through their availability, attentiveness, and expertise, team members contribute daily to the effective functioning of pastoral and administrative activities.

## A Year of Transition

After launching two calls for projects in previous fiscal years, the Board of Directors decided that the 2024–2025 year would be a transition year without a call for projects. The Foundation needed to review its priorities for the allocation of funds considering its financial capacity in the medium and long term. The past year also provided an opportunity to reflect on the mission of Novatio to focus more on innovative projects within parish communities, between parishes, and in collaboration with community organizations. Indeed, the name Novatio means “to make something new.” Furthermore, the first fundraising activity for the mission of Novatio was a great success thanks to the concert of parish choirs. The concert brought together nearly 100 choir members for a tribute evening to mothers, as the event took place during the celebration of Mother’s Day 2025.



## Building Donor Loyalty

Establishing a foundation is an undertaking that can take several years. During this time, relationships of trust are gradually built and a shared mission and vision are developed. The Novatio Foundation therefore seeks to be a bridge between the needs of our diocesan Church and the desire of donors to contribute to the future of our parish communities. Lastly, the second and third Archbishop’s Brunch Tours in 2024 and 2025 made it possible to raise nearly \$55,000. These funds were redistributed to parishes and organizations through the Foundation’s micro-grant program.

Thank you for helping make the Novatio Foundation known. More information about major gifts and planned giving is available by visiting the website or by contacting the Foundation.



*René Laprise, d.p.  
Executive Director*

**To donate :** [Fondation Novatio](#)

# FINANCIAL REPORT I



**JULY 1, 2024 - JUNE 30, 2025**

As in previous years, the diocese's revenues are derived from four main sources: diocesan contributions from parishes (10% of their assessable income); interest on investments; rental income from offices and meeting rooms at the Diocesan Centre, as well as suites/rooms at Maison Saint-Joseph; and other revenues (donations, Mass intentions, and miscellaneous income).

Expenditures for diocesan services and services to parishes are likewise grouped into four main categories: salaries for staff of the diocesan services and Maison Saint-Joseph; projects of the diocesan pastoral services (Christian initiation, formation, social and missionary outreach, communications); management and maintenance of buildings (the Diocesan Centre and Maison Saint-Joseph); and administrative operations.

As of June 30, 2025, the assets of the Archdiocese (the total value of the corporation, including financial assets as well as movable and immovable property) amounted to \$8,905,205. The Archdiocese's properties include the Diocesan Centre, which houses diocesan services, and Maison Saint-Joseph (the bishop's residence).

# FINANCIAL REPORT II

<b>Income:</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
Parish Contributions	\$ 438 663	\$404 224
Investment Income	\$461 604	\$450 151
Rental Income	\$139 156	\$169 170
Other	\$185 819	\$114 589
Other Funds	\$223 782	\$86 750
<b>Total income</b>	<b>\$1 449 024</b>	<b>\$1 224 884</b>

<b>Expenses:</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
Salaries for Diocesan Services	\$710 398	\$672 429
Property and Facilities Management	\$132 813	\$124 951
Pastoral Ministry and Communications	\$56 032	\$48 527
Administration	\$176 791	\$179 533
Other	\$173 192	\$187 462
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1 249 226</b>	<b>\$1 212 902</b>

Surplus/(Deficit): \$199 798 11 982

Note: Other funds in revenues are for the vocation fund and the compensation fund.

# THE CHURCH IN THE OUTAOUAIS

## Sowing His Light Together

2025-2027



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