

# OUR EVANGELIZING MISSION

## Priorities and Goals

Introducing the Archdiocese of Vancouver's new Priorities and Goals, which will focus our pastoral efforts and mission as we work to intentionally help people experience God's merciful love.



Archdiocese  
of Vancouver



### MAKE EVERY SUNDAY MATTER

Sunday is the time when we come together: at Mass, in the parish, in shared activities. Improving our shared experience of Sunday will inspire deeper faith and a greater sense of community.

#### A. Celebrate like we mean it

Effective Preaching:

- Our goal is relevant preaching: homilies that connect the Gospel to our hearts and lives, promoting deeper conversion. We will offer preaching instruction that will:
  1. focus on proclaiming the core Gospel message
  2. improve public speaking techniques
  3. provide ways to get effective feedback from parishioners

Beautiful Music:

- Our goal is to foster truly beautiful music because it makes it easier to pray and to encounter God at Mass. Providing beautiful music is challenging. We will increase support for parish music ministries with on-going workshops, competitions and training.

#### B. Welcome like we mean it

- Our goal is to provide ideas and ongoing support that will contribute to transforming every parish into a welcoming community.
- The Pastoral Centre teams will provide training by evangelization and customer-service experts to assist parish staff and volunteers in developing a hospitality plan based on their specific demographics and felt needs.
- We will collect and share our best practices and parish successes regarding hospitality.



### GET CLOSER TO JESUS

Our goal as Christians is to continuously grow closer to Jesus. Some of us are looking for ways to encounter Him in a personal way. Some of us are looking for deeper discipleship.

#### A. Foster personal encounters

Our goal is to:

- Implement proven evangelization programs, such as Alpha and CCO's Discovery, as entry points into faith formation programs in our parishes and schools.
- Provide retreats for men, women, and young people that draw them to Christ and provide them with tools for ongoing discipleship and community.

#### B. Promote discipleship paths

Our goal is to:

- Renew the RCIA program so that it starts a journey of life-long discipleship.
- Increase the number of lay and clerical spiritual directors.
- Open a house in Vancouver for young adult discipleship formation following the models of SPES (London, England) and Christ in the City (Denver, CO).
- Encourage more of our young adult Catholics to spend a 'gap year' with a missionary organization or religious institute to receive discipleship formation. Such groups include CCO, Jesuit Volunteer Corps, and Madonna House Apostolate.



### STRENGTHEN MARRIAGES AND FAMILIES

The world makes non-stop demands. Our culture works against Christian family life. In the spirit of Pope Francis' *Amoris Laetitia*, we will invest in strengthening marriages and families. This will benefit families, parishes and the wider culture.

#### A. Provide support for parents seeking to acquire additional parenting skills

The Life, Marriage and Family Office will:

- Offer programs for parents, grandparents, and educators seeking practical tools and strategies for strengthening relationships with their children, grandchildren and students.
- Through parishes, schools, and lay groups, offer workshops in 'felt needs' that help parents navigate key hot-button topics including:
  - children's Internet safety
  - child and adolescent sexuality
  - parenting in a digital age
  - fostering a healthy body image

Whenever appropriate, we will offer these workshops to non-parishioners as a service to the community at large. A special outreach to indigenous peoples, recent immigrants and refugees will be made to offer more support.

#### B. Connect people in need with support services that address their challenges

The Life, Marriage and Family Office will:

- Promote through each parish the growing network of local, Catholic counsellors and related services.
- Create programs for those of us experiencing separation or divorce. We want to be more welcoming and supportive so that all Catholics can be active members of their parish.
- Offer support and mentorship programs for dating, engaged and newly married couples.
- Add an evangelization program (such as Alpha) to marriage preparation.



### DEVELOP PARISH LEADERSHIP AND SUPPORT

Parishes thrive and experience renewal when pastors are enabled to delegate spiritual and administrative leadership roles to a talented and evangelized team of parishioners.

#### A. Parishes are called to be dynamic communities of missionary disciples. To foster this goal:

- The Pastoral Centre offices will support 10 parishes with training that improves communication and teamwork between all those called to spiritual and administrative leadership.
- The Pastoral Centre offices will promote parish renewal programs to interested Pastors and Parishes, such as Divine Renovation; Rebuilt; Catholic Leadership Institute; Amazing Parish; and Parish Catalyst.

#### B. Every parish will be offered services in management, development and human resource functions:

- The Human Resources Office will provide a tool kit and support services to help parishes hire and retain employees who carry out the parish's mission.
- The Communications Office will offer free parish websites and hosting to connect parish communities internally and externally with their local communities.
- The Development Office will offer parishes additional tools and assistance in fundraising and property development strategies.

For more information visit  
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