

Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan



Congress: Church Alive!

Pastoral Plan: Goals and Proposed Strategies

Working Document

The process of developing a five year pastoral plan for the Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan has been underway since June 2013. All the information that has been collected over these 20 or so months has been distilled into this working document for the *Congress: Church Alive!* being held in Peace River, from April 16 to 18, 2015.

Archbishop Pettipas, the Congress Planning Committee, clergy and laity have contributed in several ways to this essential working document. We began with the survey questionnaire that was made available in late 2013 and early 2014, to which a sufficient, albeit small number of parishioners, responded. In May 2014, the committee and members of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council reflected on the information collected. Following that, the Archbishop and the committee decided to hold a meeting with 19 parishioners from across a broad spectrum of the Archdiocese, to look at drawing up a Mission Statement and a Vision Statement for our archdiocese. This took place in August 2014.

The results of those two meetings led to the committee and the Archbishop identifying six goals of our pastoral plan. In November 2014, Archbishop Pettipas and members of the Congress Planning Committee met with clergy and parishioners of the five deaneries in the Archdiocese, to gather input on strategies that will contribute to achieving those goals. The committee has spent the past few months reflecting on, sorting through, and selecting from among those strategies the ones they believe are most likely to contribute to improving pastoral care in the Archdiocese over the next five years.

The delegates to the Congress will be asked to further reflect on these strategies, identify those that they like, those that they dislike and add any that may be missing. You are invited to do the same over the next few weeks before the meeting. Please submit your feedback to Lauri Friesen, Executive Assistant to the Archbishop by e-mail (exec.agm@live.ca), fax (780-532-9706), or mail (Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan, 10301 102 Street, Grande Prairie AB T8V2W2).

We are very grateful to everyone who contributed to this document and, to our Congress delegates, we look forward to doing more work with you in a few weeks!

Pastoral Plan: Goals and Proposed Strategies

Our values:

- *Faith / Religion and belief in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.*
- *Gospel values: Christ-like values – (love, humility, sacrifice)*
- *People in the church.*
- *Respect people and values.*
- *Love in service.*
- *Celebrate our faith life together.*

Our Mission:

Empowering God's people to grow in holiness through faith, hope and love.

Our Vision:

Church alive: celebrating and living our Catholic faith.

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In the following table, you will find the six goals and their related strategies. The strategies are broken down into the action, who is responsible for taking the action, and when the action should have been implemented or should be in place. For example: The first goal is “Good liturgy: To foster more active participation in our liturgical celebrations.” Four strategies are listed in the first column, the first being “Provide catechesis on the meaning of ‘good liturgy’”. In the next column are six actions that will contribute to achieving the strategy. The column next to the actions names one or more of the following: the Archdiocese, the priests, the parishes, or a specific office or individual. The final column is the date of implementation. The first action, “Formation of an Archdiocesan Liturgy Committee” is the responsibility of the Archdiocese and is expected to be in place and operational by September 2015.

Following the table, you will find definitions for the terms and phrases marked with an asterisk (*).

If you have any questions, please contact Lauri Friesen, Executive Assistant to the Archbishop at exec.agm@live.ca or 780-532-9766.

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GOAL 1: Good liturgy: To foster more active participation in our liturgical celebrations			
Strategy	Action	Who	When
<i>Provide catechesis* on the meaning of “good liturgy”</i>	Formation of an Archdiocesan Liturgy Committee	Archdiocese*	June 2015
	Formation of an Archdiocesan Liturgical Music Committee	Archdiocese*	September 2015
	Find a resource person who knows good liturgical music	Archdiocese*	December 2015
	Offer an open Archdiocese liturgical music workshop so everyone can learn what good liturgical music is.	Archdiocese*	April 2016
	Investigate and provide Aboriginal liturgical workshop	Archdiocese*	December 2017
<i>Enhance the homily content to go beyond the text and be relevant to Canadian context and culture</i>	A “Word Circle”* will be established in each parish.	Archdiocese*	May 2015
		Priests and Parishes	June 2015
<i>Improve the delivery of the homily so that it can be more easily understood by parishioners</i>	A speech therapist will evaluate the speech patterns of priests and recommend resources, within the Archdiocese, for accent reduction and any other identified needs.	Archdiocese*	2015

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<i>Improve the delivery of the homily (cont.)</i>	Priests who have been evaluated as needing to reduce their accent will make use of recommended resources for accent reduction.	Priests	2015 and ongoing
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GOAL 2: Good teaching: To promote a deeper understanding of the Christian life and encourage living the gospel values according to the teachings of the Catholic Church.			
Strategy	Action	Who	When
<i>Establish parish RCIA communities that will also function as Adult Faith Formation Committees* RCIA committees (cont.)</i>	At least one parish-hosted adult faith formation event per year	Priest	Annually
	Information workshops in the Archdiocese on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Instruction for the Roman Missal (GIRM) • (DVD) Becoming One Body, One Spirit in Christ 	Archdiocese* Priests and Parishes	January 2016

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	A Parish Mission in each parish, every five years	Priests and Parishes	December 2020
	Parish discussions and decisions about using AV tools in Mass	Priests and Parishes	April 2017
<i>Identify and present Church teachings for youth</i>	Continue to host week-long youth camps annually at Camp Artaban	Youth Ministry Coordinator Youth Committee	Ongoing annually
	Increase number of summer camps from two to three sessions per year	Youth Ministry Coordinator Youth Committee	2016
	Develop "Theology on Tap" and similar initiatives in every deanery, for 18-35 year olds	Youth Committee Deanery councils	2017
	A copy of the Catholic Organization for Life and Family (COLF) pamphlet to be sent to every grade 12 graduate in the Catholic schools each year.	Archdiocese*	Annually, in January (beginning 2016)

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GOAL 3: Community: To build welcoming and inclusive communities of faith			
Strategy	Action	Who	When
<i>Create a Pastoral Care for Families strategy in each parish</i>	Provide information about baptism to Catholic parents of unbaptized children at time of kindergarten registration	OEC* with Religion Coordinators of the school districts	September 2015
	Priest present at parent/teacher events in schools (especially parent/teacher interview nights)	Priest	September 2015
	Promote Family Prayer Movement* – initiated by the Archdiocese	Archdiocese*	September 2015
	Pastoral visits, by the parish priest and a parish council member, to parish families, in conjunction with the Family Prayer Movement	Parish priest and council member	Spring 2016
	Actively promote the <i>Building the Domestic Church*</i> document (Knights of Columbus)	Parish distribution	Fall 2015
<i>Focus on parishioners coming to know each other better by holding social events, once a month (Sept – June)</i>	A variety of events (not fundraisers) in every parish	Priests and each parish council	Starting September 2015
<i>Explore making a pilgrimage route on the Peace River-Grouard Trail*</i>	Find out if the trail is travel-able. Link this pilgrimage to the annual Faith Rally	Archdiocese* Grouard Historical Society Interested Aboriginal people	June 2017

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GOAL 4: Ministry: To identify the needs and gifts present in the community and to facilitate greater ministry involvement			
Strategy	Action	Who	When
<i>Expand pastoral care services in the Archdiocese</i>	Hire Diocesan Director of Stewardship	Archdiocese*	2015
	Hire Diocesan Director of Pastoral Care and End of Life Issues	Archdiocese*	2020
	Hire Diocesan Director for Marriage and Family	Archdiocese*	2020
<i>Encourage and develop ministry in parishes</i>	Offer training and regular support workshops to volunteers	Archdiocese* and Parishes	2016
	Identify needs for lay ministries, liturgical and pastoral, on a parish and deanery basis, then make available related workshops	Archdiocese*, Deanery Councils and Parishes	2016

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<p>GOAL 5: Communication: To employ all media available in our society in order to lend greater connection between the parishes and Archdiocese</p>

Strategy	Action	Who	When
<i>Develop further the Archdiocese's web site</i>	Ensure current Information about each parish, including physical location/address, Mass times and name of parish priest; Easter and Christmas details, as required	Archdiocese* and Parishes	December 2015 and ongoing
<i>Establish a parishioner database in each parish</i>	Use parish census form and other registration tools to collect, among other details, email addresses and cellphones with texting capabilities of parishioners	Parish administrator	Ongoing
<i>Nurture more sharing of news and events from across the Archdiocese</i>	Encourage parishes and groups to make use of the weekly ArchGM News, published every Wednesday	Archdiocese*, Parishes and Web master	Immediately
	Offer communications workshops, training and support	Archdiocese*	2016

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<i>Make it easier to hold meetings across the Archdiocese</i>	Investigate video conferencing options for use in the Archdiocese	Archdiocese*	2017
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GOAL 6: Accountability: To increase the level of trust and to grow in a spirit of unity as diocesan family

Strategy	How	Who	When
<i>Evaluate these strategies</i>	Create a tool to evaluate the success of the pastoral plan	Congress Committee	March 2016
	Create a tool for parishes to evaluate their progress under the pastoral plan	Congress Committee	March 2016
	Annual evaluation of work under the pastoral plan	Archdiocesan Pastoral Council	Begin May 2016
	Annual evaluation of work under the pastoral plan	Priests and Parishes	Begin May 2016

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Definitions:

Adult Faith Formation Committee: Provides parish leadership in presenting information and activities related to adult faith formation.

Archdiocese: In this document, “Archdiocese” refers to the Archbishop and/or one or more Chancery officers or employees.

Building the Domestic Church: The Family Fully Alive: a program developed by the Knights of Columbus to build and strengthen families as the “domestic church”.

Catechesis: “Catechesis is...the process of transmitting the Gospel as the Christian community has received it, understands it, celebrates it, lives it and communicates it in many ways.” (*General Directory for Catechesis*, #105.)

Family Prayer Movement: Promoting catechesis and prayer in the homes and families of our people.

OEC: Diocesan Office of Evangelization and Catechesis, 10307 99 Street, Peace River.

Peace River-Grouard Trail: The traditional trail of Aboriginals and the 19th century “road” that connected the trading and mission centres of Grouard and Peace River Landing.

Word Circle: a small group of people (3-5) who meet early in the week with the priest to read, reflect and have prayerful discussion on the upcoming Sunday readings.