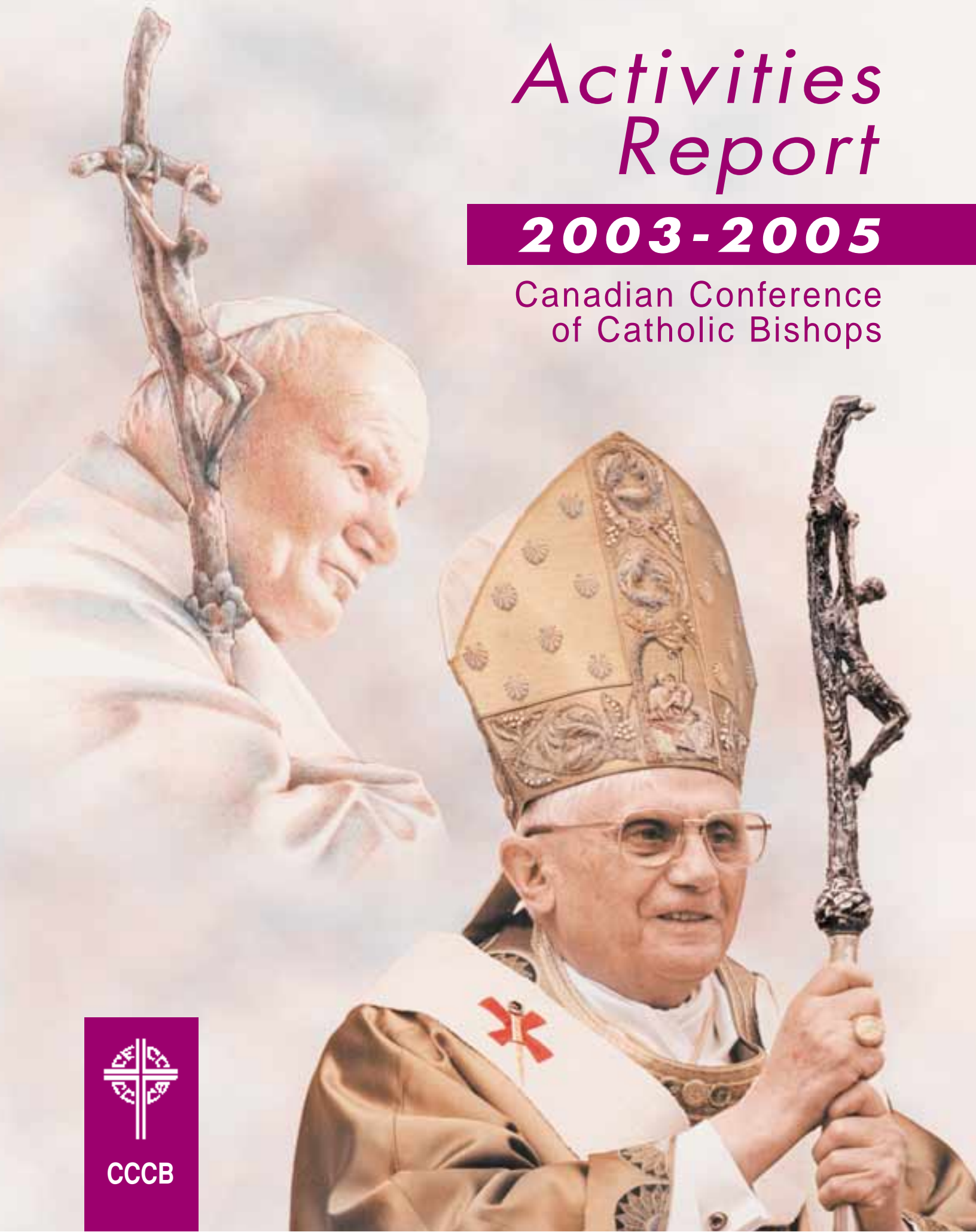


Activities Report

2003-2005

Canadian Conference
of Catholic Bishops



CCCB



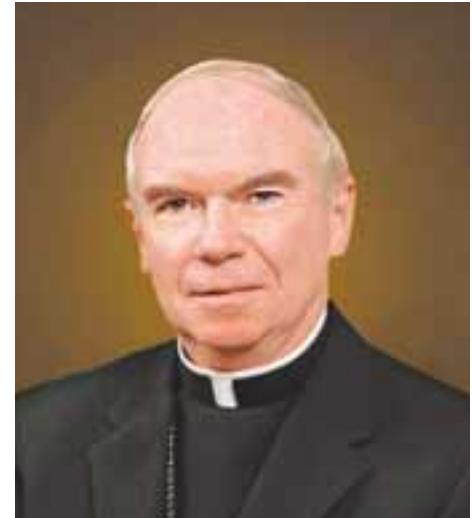
CONFÉRENCE DES ÉVÊQUES CATHOLIQUES DU CANADA
CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

When surveying the highlights in the life of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCBC) during my term as President, these certainly include the transition in the Chair of Peter, with the death of Pope John Paul II and the election of Pope Benedict XVI.

The late Pope often talked of “shadows and light”. Looking back over the past two years, one sees that among the deepest shadows that haunt Canadians are the starvation, homelessness, oppression, poverty and violence found not only among the poorest nations of the world but also affecting all humanity, directly or indirectly; the erosion of family life, including recent decisions to alter the meaning and nature of marriage; calls for assisted suicide as a “solution” for those dying in depression, pain or solitude; and pressures to commercialize and commodify human life and reproduction.

But there are signs of light and hope:

- The continuing determination by so many Canadians, of all faiths and even of no religious adherence, to maintain marriage as the lifelong and exclusive commitment of a man and a woman;
- The implementation of the Apostolic Letter *Misericordia Dei* so the faithful can be comforted and encouraged through more frequent and more personal celebrations of the Sacrament of Reconciliation;
- The Canadian Ordinances for the application of *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*, to strengthen and encourage the witness and service of Catholic higher education;
- The 50th anniversary of the Canadian Religious Conference in May 2004, which the CCCBC Executive marked with a pastoral letter on the consecrated life;
- Canadian Catholic involvement in health care, which the CCCBC Permanent Council celebrated in a February 2005 pastoral message coinciding with the restructuring of the Catholic Health Association of Canada;
- Catholic contributions of over \$19.7 million to the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace to assist in reconstructing Southeast Asian communities devastated by the December 2004 tsunamis;
- Strong interest in the *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, recently issued by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and published by the CCCBC Publications Service;
- Reflections by our Conference on the popular expressions of faith, in light of the overwhelming responses to the visit to



Canada of the relics of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, the pilgrimage of the World Youth Day cross, the national and diocesan celebrations of World Youth Day 2002, and the visits by millions of Catholics and members of other faiths every year to our national, regional and local places of pilgrimage.

The passing of John Paul II and the election of Benedict XVI were unforgettable reminders that humanity is always in transition. John Paul II died during the Year of the Eucharist, as the Church and our Conference prepare for the October 2005 Synod of Bishops on the Eucharist.

In the Eucharist, we celebrate our passing with Christ through death to life, our transition and growth through the Holy Spirit in faith, love and hope, and our profound conviction that God our Father is present. No matter the shadows which we must confront, the light of the Risen One guides and sustains us.

+ Brendan M. O'Brien
Archbishop of St. John's
President of the Canadian Conference
of Catholic Bishops

At the Service of the Church

Since 1943, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) has served the Catholic Church in Canada. As the assembly of all the bishops of Canada, it forms part of a worldwide network of episcopal conferences established in 1965 as permanent institutions where bishops exercise certain pastoral offices.

The CCCB plays a unique role in the service of the Church. First and foremost, the CCCB supports the bishops in their work at the regional, national and international levels. It does so by providing resource persons and specialists in different areas such as ecumenism, theology, liturgy, social justice, Christian education and communications. The CCCB provides the bishops a forum where they can share their experience and insight on the life of the Church and the major events that shape our society. It develops many resources for the faith education of children and adults, publishes resources used in eucharistic and other liturgical celebrations, organizes conferences and offers numerous services to Canadian dioceses.

The Conference is a means for frequent contacts with the Holy Father and his close collaborators. Each year a CCCB delegation travels to Rome to meet the heads of various Vatican congregations, councils and commissions.



Most Reverend Peter Sutton, O.M.I., Archbishop of Keewatin-Le Pas, Most Reverend Paul Marchand, S.M.M., Bishop of Timmins, Most Reverend Gilles Cazabon, O.M.I., Bishop of Saint-Jérôme, all participated in the 2004 Plenary Assembly in Cornwall, Ontario.

The CCCB involves 135 bishops representing 71 dioceses. Of these dioceses, 63 belong to the Latin and 8 to the Eastern tradition (Ukrainian-5, Greek-Melkite, Maronite and Slovak). Bishop-members of the CCCB are also in charge of the Military Ordinariate (Canadian Forces), and other non-territorial Catholic communities. These include Eastern Catholic communities shared between Canada and the United States (Armenian, Syrian and Syro-Malabar) as well as throughout the world (Hungarian emigrants).

At the Service of Youth

In August 2005, over 6,000 Canadian youth and nearly 30 bishops made the pilgrimage to Cologne, Germany, to join hundreds of thousands of youth at the 20th World Youth Day (WYD). The previous WYD, held in Toronto in 2002, doubtless contributed to the strong Canadian showing at this international meeting.

In order to assist the groups that attended this vast gathering of young Catholics – the first to be celebrated in the presence of Pope Benedict XVI – the CCCB established a national coordination committee. Its mandate was to promote this celebration, to be at the service of Canadian pilgrims, and to facilitate communications between Canada and Germany. Six Canadian bishops, including Cardinals Marc Ouellet, Jean-Claude Turcotte and Aloysius Ambrozic, addressed thousands of pilgrims who came to be instructed during the catechesis sessions.



The impact of World Youth Day 2002 in Toronto was felt in August 2005 as over 6,000 Canadian pilgrims took part in WYD in Cologne, Germany.

At the Service of the Canadian Bishops

The CCCB was created by and for the Canadian bishops. Its operation allows the bishops to exercise their leadership collaboratively throughout the country. The Conference carries out its work through its Plenary Assembly, Permanent Council, Executive Committee, and various commissions.

Plenary Assembly: Once a year the bishops of Canada meet for several days to discuss and collectively make decisions on major pastoral issues shared in common by the Church in Canada.

Permanent Council: The Permanent Council comprises 16 bishops who are elected every two years to oversee the orientations of the CCCB and to prepare for and continue the work of the annual Plenary Assembly.

Executive Committee: The Executive Committee is composed of the President, the Vice President, and two Co-Treasurers, each elected for two years. It is responsible for directing the CCCB and coordinating its activities, for carrying out the decisions of the Plenary Assembly and Permanent Council, and for looking after the administrative and financial aspects of all current and urgent business. The members of the Executive Committee, especially the President and Vice President, are often called upon to be spokespersons for the Conference.

Programs and Priorities Committee: The Programs and Priorities Committee works with the Executive Committee and the Permanent Council to evaluate, coordinate, and set priorities for the national and sectoral episcopal commissions. From among the projects of each of the



As General Secretary, Msgr. Mario Paquette, P.H. (3rd from left), directs the staff which is at the service of the CCCB. Surrounding him in the photo, from left to right, are his collaborators: Mr. Benoît Bariteau, French-language Associate General Secretary, Ms. Micheline Dubé, Director of Administration, and Mr. Bede Hubbard, English-language Associate General Secretary.

12 commissions, it annually determines the priorities of the CCCB. This committee is composed of seven bishops and the CCCB General Secretary.

General Secretariat: A staff of 50 persons including laity, religious and priests forms the Conference secretariat headed by the General Secretary. The staff assists the bishops in their pastoral tasks in various pastoral fields, including ecumenism, social justice, evangelization and family. The Secretariat, located in Ottawa, coordinates CCCB activities and information and facilitates relations with the Holy See and other episcopal conferences. It also fosters relations between the bishops and the media, the general population, and national organizations, both religious and secular.

At the Service of Hope

Since 2003, a group of experts established by the CCCB has been working to review the orientations of the Catholic Church in regarding sexual abuse committed by members of the clergy.

For almost 20 years the Canadian bishops have been grappling with this grave problem in an effort to eradicate it completely. Most Reverend James Weisgerber, Archbishop of Winnipeg, and Most Reverend Eugène Tremblay, Bishop of Amos, are co-chairs of a taskforce of 11 people, including both religious and lay experts, that is studying the 1992 CCCB guidelines on sexual abuse, a landmark document entitled *From Pain to Hope*. This transitional document assisted Canadian dioceses in developing protocols consistent with the best standards of practice at the time in dealing with cases of sexual abuse by members of the clergy. With the help of this resource, Canadian dioceses were able to establish policies concerning sexual abuse and to implement pastoral programs to help victims and their families.

At the end of 2005, the taskforce will present its recommendations for reinforcing and updating the guidelines of *From Pain to Hope* in view of



Most Reverend James Weisgerber, Archbishop of Winnipeg and Most Reverend Eugène Tremblay, Bishop of Amos, chair the Special Taskforce in charge of reviewing the document on sexual abuse, *From Pain to Hope*.

global developments in this area and recent programs developed by other organizations. During the past couple of months, the work of the taskforce has centered on ways of guaranteeing safe environments for pastoral work – particularly in the areas of the protection of children – transparency, and accountability.

At the Service of the Mission

Episcopal Commissions

Twelve CCCB Episcopal Commissions serve the Catholic Church in Canada. Each Commission specializes in one area of pastoral activity to assist the bishops in their ministry. With the expertise of four bishops and a secretary, each Commission monitors current relevant issues, analyzes the needs of the Church in Canada, maintains relations with associations, and creates new avenues to support Christian communities. Of those 12 Commissions, six are national and six are sectoral, the latter divided between the English and French Sectors.



Members of the Social Affairs Commission: Most Rev. Roger Ébacher, Archbishop of Gatineau-Hull, Most Rev. Jean-Louis Plouffe, Bishop of Sault Ste-Marie, Most Rev. Blaise Morand, Bishop of Prince Albert, and Most Rev. Daniel Bohan, Archbishop of Regina.

National Commissions

Commission for Canon Law / Inter-Rite

Studies canonical questions and supports initiatives for on-going education in canon law; promotes harmonious relations among Catholics of the various churches.

Commission for Christian Unity, Religious Relations with the Jews, and Interfaith Dialogue

Helps the bishops identify major issues in the on-going quest for Christian unity and seeks to ensure an ecumenical dimension to all CCCB activities.

Commission for Theology

Undertakes on-going studies that respond to the pastoral needs of the Church in Canada and analyses questions of a doctrinal nature for the CCCB; keeps current list of theologians who can act as resource persons for the bishops in matters of the faith; collaborates with other episcopal commissions on questions of doctrine and faith education.

Commission for the Evangelization of Peoples

Expresses the solidarity of the Bishops of Canada in their mission *ad gentes* and assists them in fulfilling their missionary responsibilities at the international and national levels.

Commission for Social Affairs

Assists bishops and the People of God in proclaiming the Gospel through activities for justice and the transformation of society.

Commission for Relations with Associations of Clergy, Consecrated Life and Laity

Assures dialogue and occasional meetings with national associations of priests, deacons, religious and secular institutes, and national Catholic lay associations.

Sectoral Commissions

Commission for Social Communications

Studies developments in communications to ascertain how these can be used in accordance with the needs of the Church; assures a Christian presence in the world of media; and provides a link with media.

Commission for Liturgy

Provides approved ritual and liturgical books; prepares and promotes educational material for publication; studies emerging liturgical development and questions; encourages good celebration of liturgy; and promotes research and formation in liturgy for purposes of evangelization and inculturation.

Commission for Christian Education

Assists the members of the Conference in their pastoral duties as teachers and catechists. The English Sector Commission works with the National Office of Religious Education (NORE) in developing catechetical resources for children, youth and adults, organizes national conferences and offers workshops.

At the Service of Our Communities

In April 2005, the Church lived through an emotional chapter – a great sadness when on 2 April, after many days of suffering, Pope John Paul II left this world.

In order to help unite Canadian Catholic communities in prayer and fellowship during this time of mourning, the CCCB immediately made available a number of resources – including prayer pamphlets, posters and banners of the Holy Father – that were most useful for dioceses, religious communities and parishes.

The Communications Service, the National Office of Liturgy, and the Publications Service of the CCCB combined their efforts to produce a special section on the Conference website. Tens of thousands of Internet users were able to find extensive documentation on the life of the late John Paul II as well as liturgical texts for use at commemorative Masses or prayer services.

Finally, on 19 April, the words *Habemus Papam!* were called out, announcing to the entire Catholic Church the election of Benedict XVI. Once again, the CCCB had everything in place to help individuals and interested groups celebrate the beginning of the pontificate of the 264th successor to Peter. In addition to offering another special section on its website, the CCCB allowed the Canadian media, many of whom were on assignment in Rome to cover the event, to meet the three Canadian cardinal-electors during a media conference held only a few hours after they left the conclave. Through this privileged contact with



In a brief one-month period, over 340,000 prayer cards were distributed across the country to parishes, schools, religious communities, and individuals.

the three archbishops as reported in the Canadian media, the CCCB gave Canadians the chance to get to know the new Pope better and to hear the impressions of the Canadian electors who had participated in their first conclave.

At the Service of the Church in the World

Each year, the Catholic Church in Canada is asked to get involved in initiatives at the international level. The CCCB is often invited to delegate one of its members.

In November 2003, a delegation of 170 Canadians, including five bishops, participated in the Second American Missionary Congress held in Guatemala City, Guatemala. The meeting brought together delegates from all the countries of the Americas to reflect on the role of “mission” in today’s world and to discuss the missionary challenges of the third millennium.

In January 2004 and 2005, Most Reverend Brendan M. O’Brien, President of the CCCB, was invited by the Assembly of Catholic Ordinaries in the Holy Land – along with representatives from the episcopal conferences of the United States, Latin America and Europe – to get first-hand knowledge of the current situation as well as to express their solidarity with their sisters and brothers in Israel and Palestine.

In March 2005, the CCCB took part in a Canadian delegation of Church representatives who studied the impact of free trade in Mexico from a human rights perspective. Most Reverend Daniel



Most Reverend Daniel Bohan, during his visit to Mexico.

Bohan, Archbishop of Regina, and a member of the CCCB Episcopal Commission for Social Affairs, was among those participating in this mission, which was organized by KAIROS, an ecumenical organization that brings together about a dozen coalitions and committees dedicated to social justice and the defence of human rights.

At the Service of Our Brothers and Sisters

Tsunami. The word alone brings back memories of the horrors, in December 2004 in the midst of celebrating the birth of Christ, that were lived by the people of many Southeast Asian countries.

Within hours the CCCB, headed by its President, Most Reverend Brendan M. O'Brien, set in motion a special collection to aid victims of the disaster. The nation-wide collection, organized with the cooperation of Development and Peace, an international solidarity organization created by the bishops in 1967, would become the most important in the organization's history. Faced with the extensive damage and the urgency with which aid was required, the CCCB immediately mobilized its forces, calling all Canadian bishops to appeal to their parishes to be generous towards the victims of the devastated areas. The response was overwhelming: an unprecedented show of solidarity that collected nearly \$20 million from Canada's dioceses and the general population.

Development and Peace has established a special team to oversee its tsunami reconstruction program during the next three to five years. Initial projects have already started to help the most vulnerable people in the countries affected.



As the official international development organization of the Canadian Catholic Church, Development and Peace works with people of all faiths to fight poverty, suffering and injustice in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

In 2004 the organization provided \$13.5 million for 294 projects in the Global South. Typical projects involve support for peace-building, human rights, agrarian reform, education, community development and economic justice.

At the Service of Reconciliation

The Catholic Aboriginal Council for Reconciliation (CACR) has operated since 1998. Composed of eight members from Aboriginal communities and two bishops – Most Reverend Albert LeGatt, Bishop of Saskatoon, and Most Reverend Bertrand Blanchet, Archbishop of Rimouski – the Council was established to encourage Aboriginal leadership in the Christian community, to support the healing and reconciliation process, and to advise the Canadian bishops on Aboriginal questions. Since its creation, the CACR has administered the Fund for Reconciliation, Solidarity and Communion, financed by voluntary contributions from Canadian dioceses and Catholic organizations. The funds are distributed to community projects, to the revitalization and development of Aboriginal languages, as well as to projects that foster better



relations between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Peoples, both in the Church and in society. Since 2003, \$300,000 in financial aid was granted to almost 40 projects.

At the Service of Internet Users

Ten years already! Launched in 1995, the CCCB website – www.cccb.ca – became the first website of its kind among the world's episcopal conferences. Today, it is the most visited website in the Canadian religious world. An average of 1,000 visitors daily peruse the thousands of pages to find out more on documents and the Conference's position. The site also includes links to the Vatican, other episcopal conferences, Canadian dioceses and other Catholic sites.

CCCB Communications Service also offers a practical e-mail notification service for people wishing to be informed of the latest updates to our website. To subscribe to this free and confidential list, send an e-mail to cecc@ccb.ca.

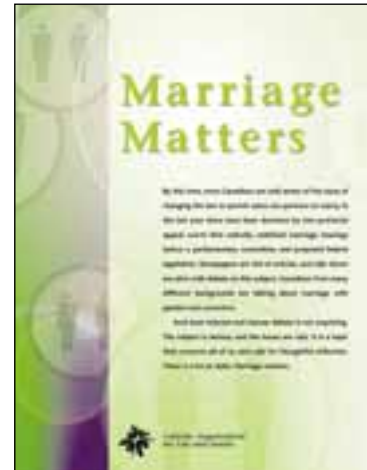
At the Service of Our Church

For the past three years, the CCCB has stepped up its efforts to ensure the voice of the Catholic Church is heard by the federal government in its efforts to recognize same-sex unions as marriages (Bill C-38).

Its untiring work in favour of traditional marriage – the union of one man and one woman, constituting a unique and irreplaceable institution for the benefit of society – has borne fruit. In total, the Conference has published over 20 reflection texts and public statements on the question, and has produced documents that were distributed throughout the country. Over 200,000 copies of the brochure “*Marriage Matters!*” – 12 themes on marriage examined through questions and answers – were also circulated across Canada. The brochure was developed by the Catholic Organization for Life and Family (COLF), an organization jointly founded by the CCCB and the Knights of Columbus.

In 2004, the CCCB argued its position before the Supreme Court. The CCCB factum reiterated that “The Roman Catholic Church teaches that homosexual persons must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity. Every sign of unjust discrimination in their regard should be avoided. While promoting human rights and preventing discrimination are laudable goals, they should not be employed ... to contravene Charter rights of others, or undermine an institution that has proven its worth over time, especially when that institution does not implicate human rights and is not discriminatory.”

In 2005, the Conference continued its efforts, calling on federal Members of Parliament to conserve “the conjugal partnership of a man and a woman,” as it “constitutes a unique good for society, providing a stable and positive environment for children and thus for future generations.” The CCCB also presented its position before the Special Legislative Committee on Bill C-38, warning the government against



serious problems that could undermine freedom of conscience and religion.

As well, the bishops focused their teaching on the younger members of the Church. The Episcopal Commission for Christian Education took special care in developing the chapters on marriage and family in the new Grade 12 religion program, *In Search of the Good*.

The perseverance of the CCCB in reminding the government to maintain the traditional definition of marriage has not been in vain. Numerous persons and organizations, Catholic and non-Catholic, responded with conviction and enthusiasm to the bishops' invitation which provoked, in every province, debate on a question which is fundamental for society.

At the Service of the Word

In a pastoral letter on ecology published in 2003, the members of the CCCB Commission for Social Affairs called on all Catholics to take care of the environment and to respect the beauty of the earth. In describing humanity's excesses and mistreatment of nature, the bishops paid particular attention to the problems linked to water: “The bible speaks of living waters, of becoming a fountain of living water, of longing for running water, and of justice flowing as a mighty river. Yet how can anyone speak about the ‘waters of life’ if these waters can no longer sustain life? Without water everything dies. Water is the life-blood of the planet.” The letter invites Catholics to embrace all forms of eco-justice, such as decreasing pollution, reducing consumption of fossil fuels, and giving time, money and talent to serve environmental causes and to educate others about the dangers of overconsumption.



By publishing important documents such as on ecology, the CCCB wishes not only to promote reflection by the faithful on these issues, but to encourage concrete action.

At the Service of the New Evangelization

Whether through organizing national conferences or publishing catechetical resources, the CCCB is continually responding in its pastoral work to the call for a “new evangelization” as advocated by Pope John Paul II in his 1999 Apostolic Exhortation *Ecclesia in America*.

The National Office of Religious Education (NORE) welcomed nearly 500 participants to its April 2004 national conference. Through presentations, workshops and conversations, participants explored what it means to engage our culture more profoundly with the Gospel, and how adults in the Church can more effectively be formed and nurtured in faith. NORE also developed a new catechetical program for use in Grade 12 in the area of ethics and Catholic morality. The program responds not only to the need for moral formation, but also to providing an academically rigorous treatment of the subject area in order to prepare students entering into the world of college and university studies, and for the challenges of adult life.

In August 2003, over 300 participants from 29 French Sector dioceses in Canada gathered at Laval University of Quebec to participate in a symposium organized by the *Office national de liturgie* of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. Participants attended two sym-



posiums. The first, open to French-language diocesan delegations, emphasized the liturgical life of local parishes and identified future challenges. Using the theme “À table!” the reflections and discussions were structured according to the constitution on liturgy of the Second Vatican Council. The second symposium, “*La liturgie, source et sommet? Comprendre, relire et imaginer,*” was a great success, gathering over 100 participants, who were called on to analyze the state of the liturgy today and to identify areas where further work is needed in carrying out the mission of the Church.

At the Service of Life and Family

For almost nine years the Catholic Organization for Life and Family (COLF) has been working to promote issues related to life and family. Established by both the CCCB and the Knights of Columbus, COLF has been particularly active over the past couple of years in the area of marriage. It has produced information briefs that were published in numerous parish bulletins and a pamphlet of questions and answers entitled “Marriage Matters!”

In 2004, COLF actively participated in the Meeting of the Bishops of America that dealt with the family. This annual event assembles bishops from North and South America to discuss shared concerns.

Also in 2004, COLF continued to strengthen its ties with specialists in the field of bioethics by organizing its sixth annual seminar on biotechnology, this one centering on end-of-life issues and the sensitive questions that surround them. The annual forum is organized by COLF to promote debate on ethical and moral challenges resulting from the development of new technologies and to provide an exchange between ethicists and scientists. In previous years, partici-



Ms. Michèle Boulva is the Director of the Catholic Organization for Life and Family.

pants engaged in discussions on the production of embryos, stem cells, xenotransplantation, designer babies and the patenting of higher life forms.

Canadian Pastoral Fund for Evangelization

The Office of Justice, Peace and Missions responds to many requests addressed to the CCCB by other episcopal conferences, especially in developing countries, to assist in evangelization. The Canadian Pastoral Fund for Evangelization places priority on projects aimed at the formation of lay pastoral workers. The Pastoral Fund also assists in the ordinary operation of the dioceses in the Canadian North.

In 2003–2004, the Pastoral Fund participated in almost 200 projects for a total of more than \$456,000.

CONTINENTS	PROJECTS	TOTAL
Africa	75	\$142,500
Latin America	52	\$141,800
North America	7	\$37,684
Asia	54	\$128,000
Oceania	2	\$6,500

Finances

The main source of CCCB financing comes from a per capita contribution made by all dioceses in Canada. The Conference also benefits from other important sources of revenue, including income from the administration of various funds, revenues which accrue from CCCB publications, and investments which are made according to social and ethical standards.

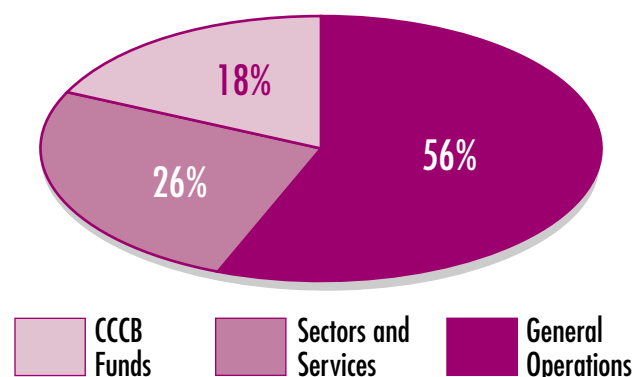
Important efforts have been made over the last few years to reduce expenses at the CCCB. The accompanying table details the financial results of the last two years.

- **General Operations:** Includes expenses related to the operation of the General Secretariat, Administration and different CCCB offices such as Justice, Peace and Missions.
- **Sectors and Services:** Includes expenses related to Liturgy and Christian Education.
- **CCCB Funds:** Includes financial aid given in response to requests from developing countries, Church organizations in Canada and elsewhere in the world.

Expenses for the year ending December 31

	2003	2004
General Operations	\$2,763,184	\$2,901,688
Sectors and Services	\$1,440,135	\$1,322,618
CCCB Funds	\$1,311,673	\$926,285
Total Expenses	\$5,514,992	\$5,150,591

CCCB 2004 Expenditure Distribution



CCCB Publications

The Pontifical Council for Social Communications recently identified the Internet as an important tool for the effective communication of the Gospel. In this spirit, the Publications Service launched a new site and online catalogue in September 2004. Since then, the site has attracted over 16,000 visitors from 52 countries. In response to positive feedback and increased sales, an electronic promotional bulletin, for those interested in CCCB publications, was introduced in April 2005.

During the past two years the Service has put a renewed emphasis on Vatican documents with the publication of *Redemptionis Sacramentum* on the Eucharist, the *Directory for the Pastoral Ministry of Bishops*, and the *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*. Other important publications included *In Search of the Good: A Catholic Understanding of Moral Living*, a Grade 12 text and teacher manual; *Blessings and Prayers for Home and Family*; *D'une même voix - Guide pratique* (resources for liturgical music); *Le Développement des radios chrétiennes*, and a series of booklets in French for the public proclamation of the Passion of the Lord.

Publications Service supports the ethical concerns identified by the bishops by contracting with sheltered workshops and by working with printers who advocate ecological responsibility and fair labour practices. A complete list and descriptions of all titles and resources can be found at www.cccbpublications.ca



Canadian Appeal Tribunal

With the approval of the Apostolic See, the Canadian Appeal Tribunal was established by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops in 1984. It is the single tribunal of “second instance” for all the diocesan and inter-diocesan tribunals of Canada, dealing exclusively with the nullity of marriage cases. During 2004, the Appeal Tribunal completed the examination of 1919 cases.

The activity of every matrimonial tribunal is pastoral by its very nature and represents a commitment to

see that the law and the rights of all are faithfully observed. The canonical trial is used by the Church as a means to ascertain the truth, which is the indispensable condition for justice, and as the most suitable way to resolve issues of great importance, such as those regarding the existence of a marriage.

This Activities Report was produced by the CCCB Communications Service in collaboration with the Publications Service.

Photo Credits: All pictures were taken by the CCCB Communications Service except for the cover page – Osservatore Romano; bottom of page 3 – John Narvali (www.narvali.com); page 6 – Yves Therrien; top of page 7 – Development and Peace; bottom of page 7 – Rusa Jeremic, Kairos.

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The photo of Pope Benedict XVI (Osservatore Romano) and the portrait of John Paul II (CCCB) on the cover are available for purchase at www.cccbpublications.ca or at 1-800-769-1147.

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops was founded over 60 years ago because the Canadian bishops wished to have a common voice and a capacity to take collective action in exercising their pastoral responsibilities, and undertaking initiatives of national importance.

Through the CCCB, the bishops can speak with one voice and collaborate in carrying out the mission entrusted to them by Christ promoting peace and justice, and standing in solidarity with the hungry and thirsty and those affected by war.

At the service of the Catholic Church in Canada, the work of the CCCB cannot be done at any other ecclesial level.



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