



# 33,000 MISSIONAL PARISHES by 2033



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

CANADA • USA • UK • AUSTRALASIA • DEUTSCHER SPRACHRAUM

2023 **IMPACT**  
REPORT

See, I am about to do a new thing;  
now it springs forth, do you not  
perceive it?

I will make a way in the wilderness  
and rivers in the desert.

Isaiah 43:19



# Inspire Connect Equip



ST DIVINE  
RENOVATION



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



**This past year, our ministry has once again experienced fruitful growth and expansion throughout the world.**

It warms my heart to see more and more of my brother priests taking, in many cases, giant steps of faith towards the renewal of their parishes.

We have learned through our work with parishes that, on average, one missional parish evangelizes 21 people each year. In 2023, our ministry connected with 3,796 priests, an increase of over 1,000 priests from 2022. This translates into approximately 25,000 more missionary disciples throughout the world last year. These numbers reflect a small part of what God is doing through our work at Divine Renovation and what He continues to do through these priests that we work with.

Events last year, such as the first-ever Divine Renovation Open House in South Africa and the first ever Divine Renovation Australasia Conference held in Sydney, Australia represent a portion of that expansion. At these events, priests and lay leaders experienced first hand what life in a missional parish looks like. They are insp-

ired and equipped to now return to their own faith communities and begin the journey towards health and renewal.

You have blessed this work of God with your prayerful and your financial support. I thank you for your generosity, a gift to us but also a gift to all the parishes that we accompany on their journey towards becoming thriving communities of faith. Through your continued support and with the grace of the Holy Spirit, I look forward to another year of our work in bringing parishes to a place of health and on the path of mission.

May the Lord continue to bless our work and each of you with abundance.

In Christ,

**Fr. James Mallon**

Founder  
Divine Renovation Ministry



**It is incredibly hard to capture impact in a report like this. Why do I feel that way?** In this impact report, you'll see extraordinary

numbers. You'll see the amazing reach this ministry has had over just the last 6 years. And you will get a sense of the immense scale of impact this ministry can have.

But for me as President, these incredible numbers across so many countries aren't just numbers: they're people. They're priests I have sat and had coffee with. They're extraordinary people who share with me how they were in a bad spot, but somehow they stumbled through the front door of a church, signed up for Alpha, and now have Jesus at the very center of their life.

As a Catholic, I often forget just how blessed I am. My faith, my church, and most importantly Jesus are at the very centre of who I am. Yet so many haven't yet met Him. It is through these incredible priests we support, the parishes leaders and parish communities that we equip, that lives are being transformed at a scale that is hard to fathom. I was with a contemplative Sister recently, and she said something to me that brought tears to my eyes.

She said, "Dan, remember, all the sacrifices you are making right now will bear fruit in heaven. Look forward to the day when you get to heaven and you are greeted by all the individuals who you sacrificed for. Imagine them, lining up to give you a hug weeping in gratitude for your sacrifices. The work of Divine Renovation is what helped bring them there, and with you, where would they be?"

That sister's message isn't just for me, it is for you.

You have made personal sacrifices to make this ministry possible. I give my time to this ministry every single week. But as a donor to Divine Renovation, you do the same. By supporting the work of Divine Renovation, you are contributing to the lives of thousands and thousands of people every year. My prayer for you, is that as you read this report, you can feel the same depth of gratitude that I do. One day, you too will find yourself in heaven. And I pray that you will be greeted by thousands of people who you never met, but whose lives were transformed by your sacrifice. On their behalf: thank you.

**Dan O'Rourke**

President  
Divine Renovation Ministry



**33K**  
**BY 33**

Equipping

# 33 THOUSAND PARISHES

to become missional **BY 2033**

Imagine if our parishes were outposts of the Good News where people's lives were transformed.

Imagine if our children were coming to church instead of leaving the faith we've handed on to them.

Imagine if new churches were opening instead of old ones closing, merging, or being sold.

What would that look like?

In the Jubilee Year 2033, the Church will mark the 2000th anniversary of the Great Commission: to go and make disciples of all nations.

Together with other ministries, apostolates, and co-labourers in the Lord's vineyard, Divine Renovation has discerned a goal that will help us to rally all our energies for the Church's mission:

**33k by 33. Our goal is to equip 33,000 parishes to become mission-focused by 2033.**

Why 33,000? This number represents approximately 16% of all parishes globally. Models of social change tell us that reaching this 16% tipping point will unleash a wave of transformation in the global Church.

**And this is just the beginning.** Our vision is not to help 33,000 parishes merely cast off into mission. It is to spark a movement that will ignite motivation in every corner of the world.

This flourishing movement of missional parishes will continue to grow, and our aim is to accelerate and multiply its impact in order to equip 33,000 parishes become missional by 2033.

Every day, more and more parishes around the world are stepping up to embrace mission — and because of them, the Church is nearing the cusp of massive and monumental change.

Learn more about 33k by 33 at: [divinerenovation.org/2033](https://divinerenovation.org/2033).

At Divine Renovation, our vision is for **Every Catholic parish in the world to be missional.**

We will do this by **inspiring, connecting, and equipping parishes to be missional, and through them bringing people to Jesus.**

And by God's grace and the support of people like you, together we will reach our goal of helping **33,000 parishes become missional by 2033.**



## Notable highlights from 2023



**2023 DR Australasia Conference** • In February 2023, Divine Renovation hosted the Called to More Conference in Sydney, where over 500 participants from Australia and New Zealand were equipped for the work of mission. Attendees represented nearly all Australian dioceses and included bishops, priests, religious, and lay leaders.



**Renewal in South Africa** • In October, St. Joseph Parish in Morningside hosted the first DR Open House in South Africa. The event, titled Khaya Lethu (“Our Home” in Zulu), gave attendees the opportunity to experience first-hand what life in a missional parish looks like, the impact the parish can make in the local community, and how renewal is possible for every parish.

Led by Fr. Brett Williams and his team at St. Joseph’s, over 130 clergy and lay leaders arrived at a place of hope for their parishes and found the event to be a stepping stone for renewal.

**Multiplying the fruits of renewal** • In 2023, we also saw the sparks of multiplication igniting at the grassroots level.

In Poland, the first cohort of group coaching for Polish priests was established. We saw a similar trend in Lithuania, where priests benefitted from group coaching by on-the-ground leaders eager to bring renewal to more parishes.

In Slovenia, Ireland, and Italy, priests who are leading renewal in their own parishes began gathering their brother priests together to share learnings, challenges, and great things God is doing in their parishes.

We also published the book *Wounded Witness: Reclaiming the Church’s Unity in a Time of Crisis*. Written by Dr. Michel Therrien and endorsed by mission and evangelization leaders, this book contributes a hopeful and much-needed voice to the current Church conversation on the need for greater missionary momentum.







## IMPACT STORY

# From drugs to redemption: “I felt like that lost sheep that He goes and looks for.”

**Mary Our Mother of Mercy Parish is a thriving bilingual parish in Chicago** pastored by Father Jose Murcia Abellan, who has been coached by Divine Renovation since 2018. Now leading from a team, Father Jose has never wavered in his focus on the primacy of evangelization: “You cannot be a priest without being a missionary.” There are times when you must “leave the 99 sheep and go and look for the lost one.” This is the story of Mary Our Mother of Mercy parishioner, Salvador.

In 2021, Salvador returned to Chicago after being kicked out of his Las Vegas home by his girlfriend. Addiction and a life of fast living had brought his world crashing down on him.

As a child, Salvador felt a strong connection to God. He was involved in youth retreats at his parish and felt drawn to the Bible. But as a teen, he’d become afraid to commit fully to following God and to be known as a Christian among his peers at school. “Here in Chicago, growing up was not easy,” he said. “It was kind of rough.”

By the time he was 17, he was far from the Church and moved to Sin City. He recounts a decade in Las Vegas filled with destruction

where he consumed alcohol and drugs daily. Yet even in that season when he ran from the Church, he sees the hand of God. “I felt like that lost sheep that He goes and looks for. He’s like, ‘OK, that’s enough. Yeah. Are you coming home with me?’ even though I was not ready.”

When he moved back home, his parents encouraged him to attend Alpha at Mary Our Mother of Mercy, his childhood parish. The Alpha course reignited his faith.

With the help of Father Jose, Salvador embarked on a journey of healing and redemption. He was able to get help, get sober, and this past year — through the help of Father Jose, the parish, and his family — he married his partner.

Turning back to the Church has led him to restoration with his wife and family, and a life with purpose and healing.

He now volunteers at Mary Our Mother of Mercy Parish, helping youth navigate that same critical point he encountered in his teenage years.

“I want God to use me as an instrument for the youth.”



**Read the full story on our website**  
Scan the QR code

# INSPIRE

## Divine Renovation inspires priests and lay leaders to move their parishes from maintenance to mission.

Through events, resources, videos, and stories, we're giving priests and lay leaders a platform for sharing inspiring stories of transformation. In turn, more and more parishes are inspired to move into action, embrace mission, and see their parish come experience new life.

Since 2022, the number of priests who have benefitted from Divine Renovation has grown from 2,456 to 3,796.



**21,000+**  
**Parish leaders**

*equipped for mission through events since 2016.*



**3,796**  
**Priests**

*connected with us*



**4,968**  
**Parishes**

*connected with us*





## IMPACT STORY

**“I want as many people to encounter Jesus in the parish...We always waited for people to come to us...”**

# CONNECT

**Parish renewal is like going where no one has gone to before. But it doesn't have to feel that way.**

Catholics want to see their parishes come alive. But getting there isn't quite so easy.

Renewal is difficult work — oftentimes painful. Relationships are challenged. Leaders are vulnerable and exposed. Faith can even be tested.

Renewal can't be done alone. You need the grace of God above all things — and you also need a community around you. This is why Divine Renovation offers a platform that connects leaders to a network where encouragement, new knowledge, and fresh ideas are shared and passed on.

Father Joe is a young parish priest in a non-central part of England. He first connected with Divine Renovation while an assistant priest in a difficult placement. He even had to pay his own way to get to the DR18 Conference in Halifax.

Now a parish priest, he can apply DR principles in his own parish, The Holy Family – Thanet.

When he first arrived in Thanet, only 50 people were coming to Sunday Mass — with the average age being 70 years old. He felt, “I am not going to sit here and manage decline.”

He identified potential leaders, ran Alpha with them and found an immediate response in their journey of evangelization.

He created his leadership team from this group. They spent time visioning, and got excited about reaching out. As Father Joe says: “I want as many people to encounter Jesus in the parish...We always waited for people to come to us...how can we go to them?”

Originally from Ghana, Father Joe was used to the parish being a place of community and support for priests. But the culture was different in the UK. Father Joseph struggled with the scourge of loneliness.

DR provided a way to create authentic relationship within a parish centred on a culture of evangelization. DR also connected him with like-minded priests excited to go on mission and he received personal support through his leadership coach.

Father Joe has now started The Mission Fraternity – a group of young brother priests in the UK who come together to create community and to support each other as they focus on mission.

He says, “With all that has happened, I treasure my priesthood.”



**“He who has called you is faithful”**  
Hear more of Fr. Joseph's story in this podcast episode.



**95 Countries**

Represented in this global movement



**170,000+ Website views**

Stewarding the movement with available supports and stories of hope

**50,000+ ENGAGEMENTS**



**6,377 ATTENDEES AT OUR EVENTS**



**14,292 EVENT REPLAYS**



**15,799 INTERACTIONS ON SOCIAL MEDIA**



**17,260 PARISH LEADERS RECEIVING UPDATES FROM DR**





## IMPACT STORY

# Amidst grief, this parish has boldly continued forward in evangelizing and impacting their community.



## EQUIP

**Through accompaniment, we help parishes escape maintenance mode and journey into a place of missional flourishing.**

As a guide, Divine Renovation exists to accompany and equip parish leaders for the work of mission.

Through coaching, events, and resources, we equip parishes and their leaders to pursue mission by helping them live out the Three Keys to Parish Renewal:

- Primacy of Evangelization
- Best of Leadership
- Power of the Holy Spirit

At Easter, four adults were baptized at St. Willibrord Parish in Montreal, Canada. A parish that just a year before was described as “palliative” – being dwindled down to 20 regular parishioners – is now teeming with new life.

Over the last year, St. Willibrord’s pastor Fr. Robert Assaly and Fr. Mike Leclerc, (the Pastor of thriving parish St. Ignatius of Loyola), created one of the most innovative, and evangelistic parish initiatives in the Catholic Church – a missionary partnership between their two parishes. The more than two dozen people sent from St. Ignatius were commissioned to join Saint Willibrord as part of their parish vision to send people out to grow the church. With the launch of the mis-

sionary partnership the group from St. Ignatius has become regular parishioners at Saint Willibrord, joining with the faithful remnant that is there.

This partnership has borne tremendous fruit. There are now 120-130 people at weekend Mass at St. Willibrord. Dozens have had their faith reignited. Tragically, Fr. Robert died of pancreatic and liver cancer on the 5th Sunday of Lent – only a few short weeks after his illness was announced. Amidst the shock of this devastating news, Fr. Robert remained unwaveringly clear in his missional directive for his parish. “Fr. Robert expressed his utmost confidence in all the parishioners who have and continue to come forward to transform Verdun through our mission.”

Father Mike has taken on the mantle of leadership and continues the missionary partnership with the team at St. Willibrord. Amidst grief, the parish boldly continues forward and remains focused on the primacy of evangelization, growing as a parish, and impacting their community. It all leads to a vision Father Mike articulates: “transforming our city, by transforming our parishes, to transform lives.”



**Read the full story on our website**  
Scan the QR code



**29 Online Events**  
**31 In-person Events**  
**1 Conference**



**942 Priests** | **39 Countries** | **9 Languages**

Since 2016, 942 priests – representing 39 countries – have been equipped for mission through coaching, offered in 9 different languages.



**138,000+**  
**COPIES SOLD**  
Translated in 10 languages



Equipping

# 33 THOUSAND PARISHES to become missional *BY 2033*

The Church anchors us to Jesus in the midst of the realities of daily life. Whether you're clergy, lay, or consecrated religious, in the Church we all encounter the person of Jesus and receive a lifelong invitation to discipleship and mission. To this end, the parish — the central place of worship, evangelization, and formation — holds an indispensable place in the Church's mission.

2023 has revealed to us the urgent need for parish renewal with more clarity than ever before. The shifting dynamics of our culture, the decline we see in our churches, the changing trends in the practice of the Faith, and the yearning for the Church to overcome the challenges of preaching the Gospel in today's context all underline a profound need for the kind of renewal that so many parishes have yet to realize and embark upon.

While there is much work ahead, the impact we've seen in the last six years testifies that this is the Holy Spirit's work — and He is doing something new in the Church today.

There is an awakening. The Holy Spirit is stirring within the hearts of priests and parish leaders everywhere not simply a desire for more but also the faithfulness and courage to do something about it.

In our work with parishes, we've observed that, on average, one missional parish evangelizes 21 people each year. Each one of those people evangelizes another person, and so on.

Imagine the difference one missional parish makes. Now, in light of 2033, imagine the impact 33,000 of missional parishes will make.

As a guide, Divine Renovation is ready to come alongside these parishes and help them to become the parishes God intended them to be. Our work of inspiring, connecting, and equipping parishes to become missional serves a single purpose: to help bring people to Jesus.



SOME GIVE BY GOING;  
**OTHERS GO BY GIVING.**

Saint Mother Teresa





# DONOR STORY

Give your hands to serve and your hearts to love.

Saint Mother Teresa



Bill | Donor, USA

WHY I GIVE

Bill and his wife, Cindy, have seven kids and live in Ann Arbor, Michigan, where they are members of Christ the King Catholic Church, a thriving DR-accompanied parish.

Bill grew up Catholic. As a child he had a strong connection with God, but he drifted away as he entered adulthood. Then, when Bill was at college, he met a couple of guys who were on fire for Christ. They told him, “Jesus loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life.” Because of them, Bill’s relationship with Jesus became central to his life.

Along with starting a successful business and raising his children, Bill has been active in his local parish. One day, he was talking with his pastor, Fr. Ed Fride, who was concerned that Christ the King had become inwardly focused. That conversation began a journey that led Bill and a few others from his parish to attend the DR16 Conference in Halifax.

He remembers the impact of this experience: the hospitality of over 200 Saint Benedict Parish parishioners, the talks and breakouts, as well as the testimony of one woman who had invited hundreds of people to Alpha and the testimonies of those people who in turn had invited their friends and families to Alpha. They spoke about how they had encountered Christ who had transformed their lives. They were so obviously filled with joy and love and peace.

Later, Fr. Ed visited Saint Benedict Parish. When he came back, he said: “There are a lot of people who write books about parish renewal, but there are very few people that actually live it out.” Christ the King became one of the early parishes to be coached by DR. Since then, the parish has become missional. After a year, Bill was even invited to coach for DR. Currently, he serves on the board for DR USA.

Bill is also a donor.

When asked why he gives to the ministry, he responds, “I don’t know how to say this...it really just comes back to the Lord. I just remember having that encounter with Him in a special way as a college student, how much He loved me and gave of himself for me. And then seeing the love of God and His generosity to me repeatedly...I just think this ministry is just such a beautiful extension of that.”

Ultimately, he has a passion to support DR because, “I love the local parish... it’s where God acts in most people’s lives...It’s just a real place of grace for people.”

He wants to “invest in my own parish, and then as much as I can in other parishes and then in dioceses” and sees DR as an effective way.

Bill hopes “that parishes would become places filled with missionary disciples... people that come to the Lord and then see their lives changed and then go on the adventure of being a disciple.”



With your help, parishes across the world will become missional.

## Join the mission

The truth is, the story of parishes embracing mission isn't Divine Renovation's story.

**This is your Church's story, and you are a part of it.**

Catholics who have a heart for reaching the lost are ready to roll up their sleeves and be a part of the mission. And as a donor-funded ministry, you have the opportunity to make an impact in the global Church. Take a look at these ways to help and join a group of ordinary people making extraordinary impact around the world.

### How can you help?

**Pray** • Mission, evangelization, and parish renewal are the work of the Holy Spirit — and for these to bear fruit, they must be sustained with prayer and the power of the Holy Spirit. First and foremost, we ask you to support the work of parish renewal through your fervent prayers.

**Give** • As a donor-funded ministry, we don't charge any fees. This means priests and lay leaders have access to coaching and resources at no cost to their parishes, thanks to our generous donors. We invite you to prayerfully consider making a financial gift to Divine Renovation in support of parish renewal around the world.

**Partner** • We believe that when organizations unite under a common vision, great things can happen. If your group shares our goal of helping parishes move from maintenance to mission, we invite you to partner with us. Learn more and get in touch with our team by visiting [www.divinerenovation.org](http://www.divinerenovation.org).

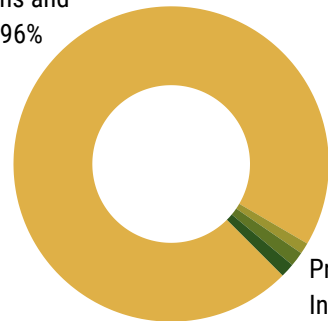


# Financials

## Combined Statement of Operations for Divine Renovation Global Ministry

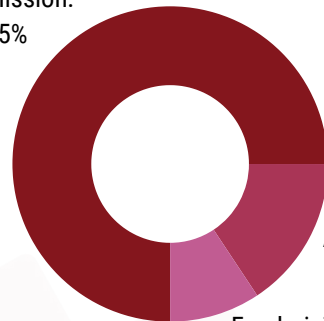
The financial figures are presented in Canadian \$

Donations and Grants: 96%



Program Revenue: 1%  
Interest Income: 2%  
Books and Misc.: 1%

Mission: 75%



Administration: 16%  
Fundraising: 9%

### Revenue 2023

\$4,525,230

Donations and Grants	●	\$4,340,584
Program Revenue	●	\$51,876
Interest Income	●	\$67,724
Books and Misc.	●	\$65,047

### Expenses 2023

\$4,928,809

Mission	●	\$3,696,822
Administration	●	\$772,989
Fundraising	●	\$458,998

### WITH GRATITUDE

Throughout 2023, we saw some of the most faithful, humble, and joyful donors in our Church today. Your generosity continues to transform lives within the parishes in this ever-growing movement. Thank you for making this impact possible through your prayers and financial contribution.



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