

Eparchial Ministries; Eparchial Appeal; Team Approach

Q *Why is it that in the Eparchy of Saskatoon we have undergone four campaigns of an "Eparchial Appeal" to fund various Great ministries like Family Life Office, Youth & Young Adults, UCREC, Communications and now Human Development & Sustainability and our Clergy DO NOT Even Invite, Make Room or Space to host them in our struggling Parishes to make them More Vibrant and Fully Alive ?*

These great Evangelizers of Laity should be booked and in every parish on a consistent if not monthly basis.

Please for the Love of Jesus Christ & His Beloved Church, Invite them all and let them share their Gifts

*Our Faithful need these "Teachers" now
Eg. Theology of the Body understanding; catechesis...*

Our priests should not have to be trying to do it all by themselves.

Calling for Renewal

A Dear Calling for Renewal,

Change, any change is difficult. We need to be careful that we do not make it seem that our ability to see these needs is taken in any way as a diminishment of the very important role of the Clergy or a suggestion that they are inadequate to the tasks before them. I am probably safe in assuming that you are not trying to do that but we must be very clear. The Clergy are our spiritual Fathers and leaders and they provide us with that which is central to living out our faith—the sacraments. However, I think what you are trying to say is that in these challenging times many of the faithful are feeling like they need more—more formation and practical instruction to navigate the complexities of the modern world. That is completely fair and sometimes we, as the people in the pews, can experience some frustration about this as we experience our values and beliefs dismissed and devalued in the world around us. I get it. Sunday Liturgy and even solid involvement in Parish life is not enough to help us feel confident to stand

our ground in a world of sliding scales and shifting ground. That is why our Bishop and the Church world wide has moved towards calling forth the laity to active ministry—and all of us are called in some way or another.

So, what do we do when we sense we need more and we feel that our Parish Priest does not see the need as we do?

1. Talk to your Parish Priest. He may be open to having you organize something. Part of the problem is that our Priest often feel so burdened by all they have to do, asking them to organize another thing is often, well just one more thing on an already unmanageable list.
2. If you try to talk to your clergy and they completely resist any suggestion of the need for Eparchial ministry programs you could try getting a group of likeminded individuals together and request something from the Eparchial ministries directly. (Hopefully you can do this with your Pastor's approval or at the very least with his knowledge as Ministries would not want to in any way be seen to be going behind Father's back—that would be completely contrary to the team approach that we are trying very hard to establish.)

I hope this is helpful as we all need to work together to build a vibrant Church—both parish and domestic—and as we know the need is great, the labourers are few.

God Bless you for your concern and question. Keep working to build up the Kingdom!