

**St. John XXIII Parish at St. Nicolas de Flue
Parish Administrative Council AGA 2025
PAC Report**

The role of the Parish Administrative Council (PAC) is to manage our Parish's resources to promote the Church's mission to live and communicate the love, values and teaching of Christ in our world. The PAC is the governing body of the financial and property affairs of our parish, consisting of the Parish Priest together with volunteer parishioners who are elected by the parish community. The PAC shares in the responsibility together with other parish groups for the ongoing life and development of our faith community, providing support and inspiration in our efforts to live as true followers of Christ. The PAC meets regularly throughout the year, and are motivated to use our various skills and best judgement to serve the administrative needs of our parish. This includes the stewardship of parish communications, human resources, parish facilities, parish finances, relations within the Canton and Diocese as well as a range of fundraising activities.

In spite of many challenges in 2024, St. John XXIII Parish continues to flourish through the continued support of our parish priest, staff, volunteers and parishioners through generous spiritual and material contributions. Despite many uncertainties facing our world, our faithful community has been able to maintain a healthy bottom line, and for this we are very grateful.

Our parish continues to offer an impressive variety of opportunities to help parishioners grow deeper in their relationship to self, God and others. In 2024, we had over 3'890 registered parishioners with approximately 1'200 - 1'750 attending weekend Masses regularly. As usual, we were privileged to celebrate a large number of Weddings, Baptisms, Confirmations and First Communions this year. Our parish calendar had a number of fundraising events to support various outreach activities such as the International Street Food Festival, the Goan Sunday, the Filipino Barrio Fiesta, Christmas Sale and the first-ever Multi-Choir Concert. In addition, we host and promote more than a dozen weekly meetings for groups and other collectives associated with our religious mission such as Ignatian Spirituality Centre, Walking with Purpose, Couples for Christ, Missionary Families for Christ, Cursillo and Ignatian Way.

Every week, in addition to regular masses, our parish is committed to teaching catechism to about 266 children. The Faith Formation and religious ministries at St John XXIII continue to inspire parishioners in building a strong and intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. Through continual improvement, our Marriage Preparation, Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults,

catechism and sacramental programs strive to engage children, youth, families and adults to seek communion with God and communion with one another.

We continue to support an impressive number of students in receiving the sacraments. First Communion, First Reconciliation and Kairos Retreats are well attended and impactful. Once again, we sincerely thank all those who supported our programs this past year either by volunteering or participating as engaged couples, parents, godparents, children, teens or adults. The participation of the lay faithful is key to keeping our programs robust.

In the past few years, your PAC has been especially focused on the review and upgrading of important policies and procedures governing the life and internal decision-making of our parish. Our financial and administration controls were fully reviewed and updated in 2021. Human Resources policies were reviewed and updated throughout 2022 and 2023. In 2023 we are pleased to have completed a full overhaul of our Safeguarding policies and procedures in line with the Eglise Catholique Romaine Genève's (ECR) direction and the laws of the Canton of Geneva. A two year project to renew our parish Statutes and By-Laws in collaboration with the ECR was finalized in June 2024. In the past year, we were able to fully review and upgrade our parish house and grounds insurance policies in accordance with ECR and Statute guidelines.

To carry out our ministry, our parish centre has several buildings including a church for approximately 600 people, apartments for parish priests and more than a dozen meeting rooms as well as a parking lot and exterior grounds. The oversight and maintenance of these facilities can be a demanding and time-consuming task. We continue to have to make essential repairs to our 60+ year old church buildings both inside and out.

In 2024 our main focus was the completion and funding of urgent and substantial repairs to our unconventional and vast roof. While we were able to cover this complex roof repair costing almost CHF 260K, we are left with an acutely depleted savings fund. On the horizon, the Canton of Geneva has an ambitious long-term plan to accelerate the transition to renewable energies for the Canton's homes and buildings. There is no doubt that our parish will need to make important capital investments in the next five to ten years to meet the Canton's objectives. The size and timing of these investments are still to be determined. In the meantime, we are assessing ways to improve our carbon footprint and energy costs in ways which are appropriate to our current finances.

These recent and future considerable capital investments are definitely a concern for our parish in the current uncertain world. We have already reported in the past on how the post-pandemic environment has resulted in reduced revenues, coupled with increased inflation and energy costs. More recently, many of our parishioners are negatively affected by the major upheaval in funding for the international and humanitarian communities. Massive funding reductions and major structural reorganisations are being reported daily in the local news and the long term impact for our parish is not yet understood.

Our 2024 parish revenues through contributions and other support are slowly growing year on year since the end of the lockdown (CHF 727K, +CHF 36K vs ya), but have not yet reached

pre-pandemic levels (CHF 813K in 2019). Despite these strains, we have worked hard to find opportunities for efficiencies to keep our overall expenses stable.

We are able to maintain our employed staff of 4 persons: the Accountant, Receptionist, IT Coordinator and Director of Religious Education. As always, we are so appreciative for all the staff does, officially and unofficially, to support the parish and our activities.

In 2024, we again made progress (CHF 100K) on the repayment of our renovation loan. As a reminder, the parish took loans totalling CHF 5.2 million in 2012 and 2013 to extensively refurbish our parish buildings. We are confident that we will be able to fully repay our remaining loan balance of 200K CHF in a timely manner – by the time of the General Assembly in June, our balance will be down to CHF 140K.

While we have experienced some difficult challenges, the loyal generosity and contributions of our parishioners has resulted in a stable situation in which we are able to support our mission in Christ and meet our financial commitments. We recognise that we have several burdens ahead including reduced revenues, uncertain economic environments and upcoming capital investments.

Our parish operations and mission are entirely self-funded, and therefore we are entirely and humbly dependant on the faith and generosity of our parishioners to continue to serve our community. Our parish is like a living organism which needs on-going nourishment through contributions of time, talent and financial giving to flourish.

We remain grateful for all the gifts God has given our vibrant parish. The current year is a Jubilee of Hope, let us pray and work toward bringing the light of Christ to our lives.

With sincere thanks from your PAC

NOTE: For more details on the main PAC activities, updates from the PAC members are posted on the Parish Website.