



DIOCESE OF FALL RIVER

CHANCERY FINANCE OFFICE

Parish Assessment

Updated December 2024

History and Fees Generated

The parish assessment was introduced in January 2016 to help fund the central administration of the Diocese. The assessment was structured as a tax on recurring revenue accounts (recurring revenue excludes extraordinary income to parishes, including bequests and gains on sale of assets), as follows:

Parishes with recurring revenue < \$125,000	8% assessment
Parishes with recurring revenue > \$125,000 and <\$400,000	11% assessment
Parishes with recurring revenue > \$400,000	14% assessment

For the 6-month period Jan16-Jun16, and fiscal year 2017 (Jul16-Jun17), the assessment was based on FY15 parish revenue.

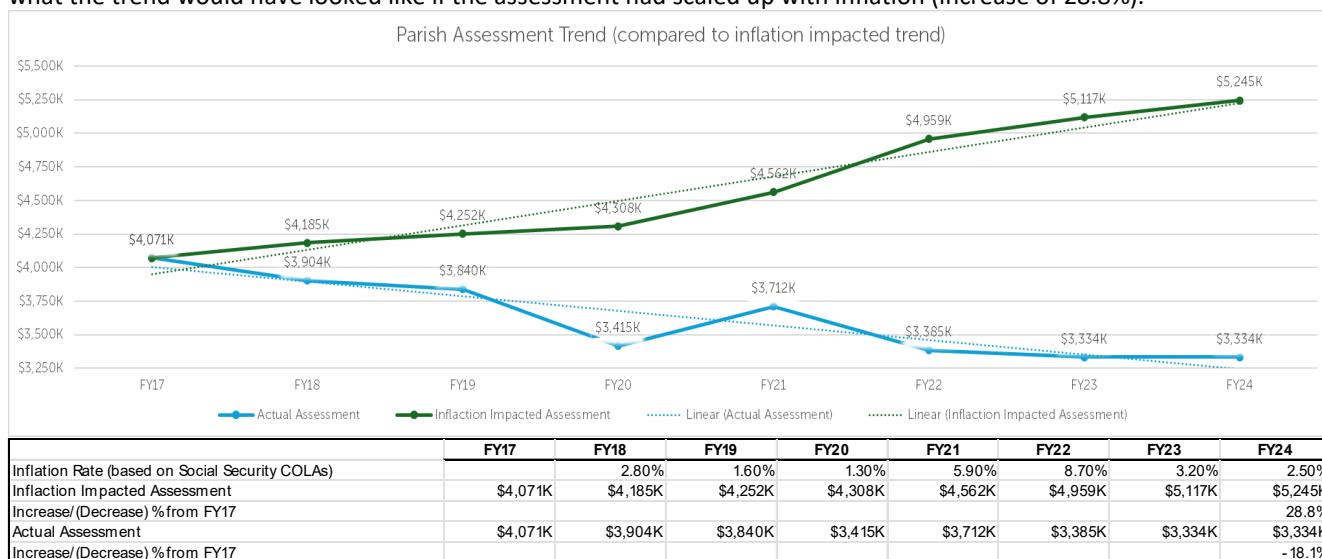
During FY17 [note that the Diocese’s fiscal year runs from July 1 – June 30 each year] a committee of pastors convened to review the assessment. The committee recommended, and Bishop da Cunha approved the following adjustments, effective at the beginning of FY18:

1. The FY18 assessment would be based on FY16 parish revenue (down 2.2% in the aggregate from FY15), with an additional 1% reduction applied evenly to each parish.
2. The new assessment charge to each parish would be frozen for 3 years (FY18 - FY20).

A plan was established for a new special committee convene in FY20 to review the assessment again. With the uncertainty occasioned by the pandemic, this was postponed. The frozen rates were extended for FY21.

In FY21 a new committee of pastors and Chancery staff convened to review the assessment. The committee recommended and Bishop da Cunha approved a 10% reduction in assessment fees for FY22 (off the rates that had been frozen from FY18 – FY21). The reduced rates were effective with the Chancery billing for July 2021 and remained in effect for FY23 and FY24.

The chart below shows how assessment revenues have actually trended (blue line; decrease of 18.1% since inception), vs what the trend would have looked like if the assessment had scaled up with inflation (increase of 28.8%).



What the Parish Assessment funds – FY24

Parish assessment revenues recognized in FY24 totaled \$3,334,206. The Chancery uses the Parish Assessment, as well as other sources of income (including investment earnings, Diocesan property sales, and Diocesan bequests), to finance central operations (including Finance, Human Resources, Facilities, Bishop's Office, Legal, etc.), and to subsidize other areas (including seminarian education and retired priests), where other income sources fall short of the need.

Any questions on the assessment or Chancery financials can be directed to Joe Harrington, Vice Chancellor for the Diocese of Fall River, at jharrington@dioc-fr.org.

*Please see the full set of audited financials for the Chancery Office at <https://www.fallriverdiocese.org/chancery-finance-office/>