DIOCESE OF FALL RIVER
CHANCERY FINANCE OFFICE

Parish Assessment

Updated June 2021

History and Fees Generated

The parish assessment was introduced in January 2016 to help fund the operations of the central administration of the Diocese that supports our parishes, schools and related entities. 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 a committee of pastors was convened to review the assessment. The committee recommended, and Bishop da Cunha approved the following adjustments, effective at the beginning of FY18 (July 2017):

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 FY18, FY19, and FY20

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

The total Chancery income related to assessment fees in FY20 was $3,415,297*

*Assessed fees were closer to $3.8M. Among the many measures taken in response to the pandemic was a waiver of the assessment for the month of April 2020, resulting in the lower amount recognized in FY20.

During FY21 a new committee of pastors and Chancery staff was convened to review the assessment. The committee recommended and Bishop da Cunha approved an across the board 10% reduction in assessment fees for FY22. The reduced rates will be effective with the Chancery billing for July 2021 (first month of fiscal 2022).

What the Parish Assessment funds – FY20

(The financials below are related to FY20. We will update with FY21 financials after the year is closed and the financials have gone through the audit process).

The Parish Assessment, combined with investment earnings and other income (such as donations, bequests, and service fees to other affiliated organizations), funds the central administration of the Diocese as outlined on the following page:

Central Administration	
	FY20
Parish Assessment	$ 3,415,297
Special Collections & Bequests	294,679
Interest and Investments	1,675,039
Other Central Admin Revenue	555,723
Subtotal Central Admin Revenue	**$ 5,940,738**
Central Admin, Clergy, and Religious	$ 1,827,802
Professional and Legal	3,259,214
Other Central Admin Expense	1,661,832
Subtotal Central Admin Expense	**$ 6,748,848**
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	**$ (808,110)**

Sources and Uses - Total Chancery Office	
	FY20
Central Admin	$ 5,940,738
Seminarians, retired priests, and communications (2nd collections)	458,250
Annual Appeal	2,682,386
Savings and loan	220,380
Insurance	19,722,360
Subtotal: Chancery Office Revenue	**$29,024,114**
Central Admin Expense	$ 6,748,848
Seminarians, retired priests, and communications (expense)	1,943,120
Annual Appeal (stipends and related)	6,229,368
Savings and loan expense	1,380,888
Insurance expense	17,508,546
Subtotal: Chancery Office Expense	$ 33,810,771
Net Surplus/(Deficit)[1]	**$ (4,786,657)**

[1] The total deficit above ties to published audited financials, but some individual line items may differ. There are several reason why. The primary reason is that we have done certain eliminations for GAAP purposes on the audited finanicals, that are not appropriate in a sources and uses report.

FY20 results were unfavorably impacted by several pandemic related issues, including the aforementioned waiver of April 2020 Parish Assessment fees, as well as a market downturn in the 3rd quarter (Jan20-Mar20). Legal expenses also spiked considerably due work on the released list of credibly accused priests as well as significant and on-going projects.

Note too that Central Admin Revenues in general and Parish Assessment fees in particular are necessary to help fund deficits in supporting seminarians, retired priests and Appeal initiatives not fully funded by their respective revenue streams.