

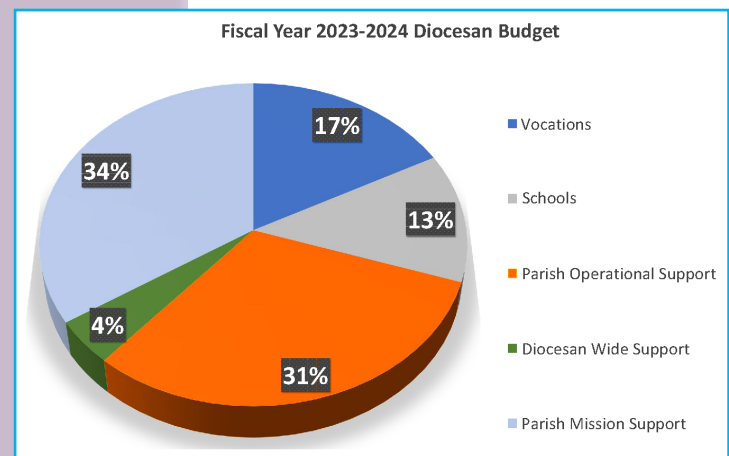
The joy of Easter spurs for each of us the path for new life! While your parish works to serve you each day on this journey, the Diocese is active as the behind-the-scenes partner focused on this same mission. You can see what is being offered by your parish but to learn more about the Diocese, we have put together responses to your most commonly asked questions:



Diocesan Appeal

1. **How is Diocesan Appeal revenue used?** 30 Diocesan departments are staffed by 57 full-time & 23 part-time individuals with expertise in specialties such as those of the Tribunal, religious education, human resources, facilities management, finance & accounting, prayer and worship, etc. The bulk of department budgets is staffing. Additionally, the Appeal provides full funding of seminarian education, underwriting of the administration of Catholic Schools, & support of the programs of Catholic Charities for those who face food insecurity & hunger. For details, visit www.rcda.org/offices/finance-office, scroll to the page bottom for Financial Statements.
2. **Does the Diocesan budget get cut?** Yes, each year there have been significant cuts made to the Diocesan budget as a reflection of revenue. As one example, since 2020 more than 22 positions have been eliminated through attrition or retirement & will not be replaced, resulting in a reduction in staffing of 28%. Unfortunately, this also yields a reduction and/or possible delay in services and initiatives.
3. **What happens if my parish doesn't meet its Appeal assessment via parishioner donations?** Just like when you incur expenses for services rendered for your home, there is an obligation to pay. Parishes that are unable to meet their Appeal assessment obligation via **parishioner donations** will need to pay the balance using parish funds. The Diocesan Stewardship staff works diligently to provide tools, resources & strategies to help parishes reach their goal through parishioner donor support.
4. **How is the parish Appeal assessment calculated?** It is simply a mathematical equation which uses a 3-year average of parish offertory income as the primary factor for the calculation. This is standard practice in dioceses across the country. The formula is currently under review for possible revision.

75% of the Diocesan budget is funded by revenue from the Diocesan Appeal with the balance from bequests, investment returns, and grants. Donors support the Appeal with the intent to underwrite diocesan departments (*see #1*), which is how the revenue is used. If the needed revenue is not met, diocesan budgets are cut (*see #2*.)



(See department listings within the budget categories at www.TheDiocesanAppeal.org/materials)

“We are one Body of Christ, where each member of the Body needs every other member, and the Diocesan Appeal is the way that this missionary Body exercises works of mercy.” - Fr. Rendell Torres, Pastor – St. Joseph the Worker, Richfield Springs & W. Winfield. Easter reinforces our blessings to be journeying in faith with a great shared community. **Your gift today** gives hope and validation to your parish and their commitment to you and your family, and invests the power of many to perpetuate the strong future of our Catholic Church - **Thank you!**

APPEAL DATES: July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 | www.TheDiocesanAppeal.org | 518-453-6680 | stewardship@rcda.org