

Parish of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi

2020 Financial Report

This is the first financial report to you, the members of the Parish of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi.

2020 was a unique year. Four distinct parishes were amalgamated into one, weeks before Nova Scotia and much of the world were shut down by the declaration of the COVID pandemic.

2020 was a year of learning how to maintain parish life in a public health emergency. It was a year of learning how to start working together, with new diocesan requirements for bookkeeping and reporting.

Sunday collection contributions decreased by only 10% although churches were closed for a quarter of the year. Many thanks to the dozens of parishioners who gave the same or more than usual.

Fund-raising and rental revenue are much lower due to the requirements of public health.

Volunteers have stepped forward time and again to ensure the parish overcomes the challenges of the pandemic. You have kept the parish going.

The federal government's COVID relief wage subsidy was a financial lifeline. It is now largely phased out. The diocese also provided noteworthy support by waiving half of the usual assessment paid to them.

Parish activities were limited, and for many weeks churches, halls and meeting rooms have been completely closed. This had a significant effect on both revenue and operating expenses.

Necessary capital expenditures have continued, with significant work done at St. Mother Teresa of Kolkata, St. Patrick's and St. Theresa's. Prior year surpluses, insurance proceeds and money on deposit with the diocese were used to pay these capital costs and thus cover the 2020 deficit.

In 2021 we are using valuable pandemic experience to deal with new and on-going challenges as this new parish takes shape.

May the Lord bless you and keep you safe as each one of us takes part in this community of the faithful.

Fr. Francesco Pirisi, FoH

Holly Dacey-Joudrey

Cathy Harris

George McCormack

Dan O'Connor