

Archdiocesan Finances

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Like many parishioners throughout southeast Michigan, the Archdiocese of Detroit is working through some serious financial challenges. You, the faithful, provide the resources with which the Church operates. I am grateful and humbled by your generosity and trust through these difficult times. In the spirit of *Sharing the Light*, I want you to know the financial health of your Archdiocese.

Shortly after my installation as Archbishop two years ago, I appointed a commission of lay financial experts and priests to assess archdiocesan finances. In September 2009, that commission and a task force I appointed to examine archdiocesan administrative operations concluded that our financial situation was in need of urgent and significant reform. To stabilize our finances, I accepted several recommendations proposed by these two work groups. When the Archdiocese reorganized operations in 2009, we eliminated dozens of positions. We cut spending and are addressing our major sources of debt. Because of the selfless efforts and sacrifices of many, the Archdiocese will operate with a balanced budget effective July 1, 2012.

Some of the problems we confronted in 2009 were caused by the recession. Regrettably, others were within our control. We have learned from this experience, and have implemented many changes in how we conduct the business of the Archdiocese.

We are striving to be good stewards of that which the Lord has given to us. I pledge to you that we will continue to address these challenges directly, openly, and thoroughly. To learn more about archdiocesan finances, I encourage you to visit www.aodonline.org/SharingTheLight/Finances.

I welcome your feedback and ask you to join me in asking the Virgin Mother of God to protect and advance our efforts to fulfill Christ's mission to his Church.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend Allen H. Vigneron
Archbishop of Detroit