

Catholic Diocese of Salt Lake City
Diocesan Finance Council
Meeting Minutes of May 14, 2024
Pastoral Center, 27 C Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84103

PRESENT

Bishop Oscar A. Solis	Deacon George Reade
Monsignor Colin F. Bircumshaw	Doug Black
Reverend John Evans	Candice Greenwald
Reverend Sam Dinsdale	Sarah Niemann

NOT PRESENT

Fred Strasser	Andrea Steenburgh
Kathie Roberts	Mark Longe

GUEST

Marlee Garcia

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JANUARY 23, 2024 AND MARCH 1, 2024

Monsignor Colin F. Bircumshaw asked the finance council if they had reviewed the January 23, 2024 meeting minutes, and if they have any corrections. Or move for a motion to approve the minutes. Father John Evans motioned to approve the January 23, 2024, meeting minutes, Deacon George Reade seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Monsignor Colin F. Bircumshaw asked the finance council if they had reviewed the March 1, 2024 meeting minutes, and if they have any corrections or for a motion to approve the minutes. Father John motioned to approve. Father Sam Dinsdale seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

BUDGET REVIEW AND APPROVAL FOR FISCAL YEAR JULY, 2024 – JUNE 30, 2025

Candice presented the proposed budget broken down by programs or organizations which includes:

EXPENSES:

- Increase for clergy to be done in parts
- 3% Salary or wage increase for lay employees
- 1 new half-time position for a Safe Environment employee

- 5% health insurance increase
- 23 retired priests, 1 new clergy retiring this August
- Support for 6 seminarians
- Last year, there was a change in the calculation of the quota for the Intermountain Catholic Newspaper - there will be an increase on both the revenue and expense side; since there is a continued support for the newspaper, it still nets to zero
- 9.8% average increase in property insurance
- 20% increase in utilities – to get it to actual and to account for increase for next year
- Support for 2 newly ordained priests in their Canon law studies
- 3-year digitization project in our Archive
- Anticipated contract increases (audit, software maintenance, etc)
- Total operating expense went up 1.89%

FUNDING:

- Savings from one unfilled position that we anticipate holding for another year
- 10 employees in the diocese that do not opt for health insurance
- Savings from reallocations identified by directors within their budget
- Ordinary income assessment determined in the fall is calculated on parish's ordinary income. So, what is in the budget is based on last year's assessment calculation. There is a parish assessment and a school assessment. The school assessment are funds collected to support struggling schools, emergency grants, and fund the Catholic School's Office
- With the Utah Fits All Scholarship available, schools should see a lot more scholarship funding

Monsignor Colin said he wishes they could put more into savings. Bishop Oscar A. Solis said that one thing that will affect the budget is the influx of foreign priests. Bishop Solis asked if that is included in the budget. Candice replied that there is a part of the budget set aside for external priests.

Father John Evans said that one way to reduce risk of the D&L paying out more interest than what is being earned, is to encourage those parishes with substantial savings to move their excess to the foundation. Doug said that if they decrease the interest rate on savings, then it could be the incentive to put the savings into the foundation.

Father Sam Dinsdale commented that at the last finance meeting for the priests, there were so much information that the priests did not retain much of the information. Father

Sam suggested the possibility of further finance education for the priests either directly, or maybe during the convocation going over - what interest is, how to invest your money for greater potential returns, etc. using real life examples. Candice mentioned that some parishes have contacted Nevah Stevenson to do a modified finance presentation at their parishes.

Father John suggested we should target the parishes that will have a significant impact and start educating pastors in finance. Candice said that she has offered to either physically attend finance council meetings, zoom in or in Teams to answer their questions regarding: ordinary income, DDD and Intermountain Catholic newspaper quota calculation, parish and parish-school assessments, etc. so they can better understand the reasoning behind it. Father John suggested possibly having handouts or some materials the pastors can take with them after the presentation. Father John also suggested in meeting with each pastor using their parish's D&L numbers to show the benefits of investing the savings wisely to see what it could do for them; teaching them how to balance the load between investing in Temporary vs Permanent Endowments. Father John added a good number of the priests haven't done this before and they are nervous, or some of them want the control over the funds. Bishop Solis said we need to face the fact some priests do not know how to review and manage their finances.

Monsignor Colin Bircumshaw asked for a motion to approve the budget as presented. Doug Black moved to approve the budget; Father John Evans seconded the motion. Motion to approve the budget was unanimously approved.

OTHER BUSINESS

Monsignor Colin F. Bircumshaw asked for updates on Mount Calvary Cemetery. Deacon George Reade said that he has gone back to the architect and asked for another bid on a columbarium (wall) and a mausoleum without a chapel, looking to cut costs wherever we can. Candice stated that John Curtice has been working with Nevah Stevenson on forming a committee and looking at how best to do the fundraising.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND ADJOURNMENT

The next Diocesan Finance Council meeting date is Tuesday, October 15, 2024. Deacon George led the closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 3:56 PM.