

## **REPORT OF THE DIOCESAN TREASURER**

It has been just over a year since I arrived at the Diocesan office. When I began in September 2010 I felt like someone going to a new school for the first time. As I entered the Cathedral Place doors a short year ago, I had all of the new school jitters we have all experienced: How long will it take me to remember everyone's names? Will I get lost in the building? Will I make new friends?

While there is never a good time to start a new position, September was a good time to begin with the Diocese. The fiscal year was two-thirds completed allowing me time to get to a fuller understanding of how the Diocese worked from an accounting perspective before the auditors would arrive full of questions. The Synod meeting in November allowed me to meet many new faces from around the Diocese.

The first step in my inauguration activities was to review the financial status of the Diocese, calculate some basic starting benchmark measurements and confirm my hunches as to where I needed to focus my efforts. It quickly became clear that considerable effort was going to be needed on reducing the Dioceses' reliance on its line of credit with the bank. A cash flow plan was prepared to determine what would need to change in order to reduce the line of credit. Financial reporting, as part of this measurement process needed to be regular, consistent and timely.

In September 2010 the amount due to the Diocese from parishes was \$1,814,000. This was comprised of general parish amounts due of \$895,000 and long term parish debt of \$918,000. The interest bearing portion of the bank line of credit was \$1,280,000.

It is now mid October 2011 and the September 2011 results are complete. I would like to highlight the progress that has been made since last year, and how much the financial picture has improved. The current amount due to the Diocese from parishes is \$878,000 and the long term parish debt is \$825,000. While this may not appear to be a significant change, it is. The interest bearing portion of the bank line of credit has been reduced to \$890,000 at September 30 2011.

While all of our financial problems are not solved, and new ones may yet emerge, the progress made should be recognized, as should the efforts of those who helped make it happen. Thanks to all of you who have contributed in any way to reducing our debts.

While debt reduction was and is a high priority, there were other priorities and projects worked on this year.

- We continue to work towards the tasks suggested by the Bishop's Advisory Committee. The 2012 Budget reflects many of these recommendations.
- All of the Diocesan administration costs have been reviewed and we have been able to reduce a number of them in the short and long term.
- The information coming from the Finance department is more timely and consistent in its reporting methods. We have reviewed and changed many of our internal processes to gain efficiencies wherever we can.
- We expect to have a surplus for 2011 and plan to reduce our debts further in late 2011 / early 2012.
- We have begun the process of reviewing the information (financial and statistical) that is gathered from parishes after their vestry each year to determine how it can be better utilized. What is the information telling us about the past? What is it confirming to us? What trends and future challenges is it identifying?

## **REPORT OF THE DIOCESAN TREASURER (continued)**

- Reviewing the status of the Rectory Funds held and initiating discussions on a new policy regarding their use.

The successes this year would not have been possible without the help of others. I would like to publically thank Gord Archbell and Judy Conning for their guidance and assistance and the Finance, Program and Executive staff at the Diocese for making the days brighter.

As I enter my “Junior” year at the Diocese, I look forward to working with the Bishop, the Diocesan staff, the FAC and its sub-committees and many others as we continue to labour together to meet the challenges of the future.

And now...the answers: After a few weeks, and a few mistakes, most of the face and name connections were automatic. Yes, I did get lost a few times in the building. I have gained many new friends and acquaintances this year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joanna (Jody) Beck  
Treasurer & Director of Finance