



March 2, 2018
Season of Lent

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I am pleased that we are presenting in this issue of *The Catholic Herald* a 4-year consolidated report on our Diocesan Finances. Prepared by our Diocesan Financial Administrator, Deb McRae, this report should give you a clear snapshot of our economic situation. It includes figures for the Diocesan Pastoral Centre, our Parishes, and the Priest Benefit Fund.

The financial resources of the Church come from all of us who make up the Church and those resources exist to serve our tasks of proclaiming the Gospel, teaching the faith, celebrating divine worship, and reaching out to the needy and the suffering. I hope that you will feel confident that what you so generously contribute is being carefully administered and put to good use for the Church's mission.

Our parishes rely on faithful and sacrificial giving from parishioners, and I know that our pastors and parish finance committee's work hard to ensure that both money and property are prudently managed. Many of our parishes are small and so must be diligent and creative in their fundraising to meet the many expenses that they face. A vibrant parish life, of course, is the greatest predictor of economic wellbeing.

You will see that the onerous long-term Diocesan debt has been paid down over the years, thanks to your generosity, the careful administration of Bishop De Angelis and Bishop McGrattan, the good work of our staff and the wise advice of the Diocesan Finance Council. It is good to be unhampered by debt and we remain very attentive to managing the Diocese in ways that are fiscally responsible.

Great strides have also been made in reducing the unfunded portion of the Priest Benefit Fund. You will see that more work remains to be done in that area, if we are to adequately care for our retired priests in the future. For that reason, your generous donations to the annual collection for the Priest Benefit Fund (held this year on June 15) is absolutely crucial. I know from speaking to people that they are grateful for the faithful service of our veteran priests, those retired and nearing retirement. Let us not forget about them but ensure that they are able to enjoy a secure and decent lifestyle in their latter years.

Once again, I thank you for your ongoing generosity to the Diocese of Peterborough, at the parish level and elsewhere. I am appreciative of our good staff, pastors and Parish Finance Committee's, the Diocesan Finance Council, the Diocesan Property and Building Committee and I am sincerely grateful to all who contribute to the fiscal and spiritual wellbeing of the Church.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "† Daniel Miehm". The signature is written in a cursive style.

†Most Reverend Daniel J. Miehm, D.D.
Bishop of Peterborough

†DJM/dlt