



# DIOCESE OF LONDON

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To: Pastors and Business Managers

From: Andrew Jardine, CFO

Date: 28 November 2023

Re: Approved Diocesan Centre Budget for 2024 and Strategic Initiatives

I hope this message finds you well and in good spirits as we move towards the Advent season.

I wanted to inform you that the Finance Committee recently reviewed and recommended for approval the Diocesan Centre budget for the upcoming year, 2024. Bishop Fabbro accepted the recommendation. There are several updates that I wanted to bring to your attention.

## Assessment fee

Following careful consideration and planning, the assessment fee for each parish will remain unaltered from that of 2023. We know it is necessary to revise the assessment fee formula and we remain dedicated to ongoing efforts aimed at devising a transparent and equitable formula for all parishes. There are many variables to consider and we need to be thoughtful about how we move forward. It is our intention to develop a framework for the assessment fee during our upcoming strategic planning process.

One important aspect of the assessment fee is to share information about “where the money goes.” Below you will find a breakdown of the 2022 expenses that are paid for with the assessment fee. We will continue to update this information on an annual basis.

## Strategic planning

In recognition of the evolving landscape and in an endeavor to proactively address future challenges and opportunities, the Diocese will be undertaking the development of a new 5-year strategic plan for the Diocesan Centre. This initiative aims to analyze prevailing trends, anticipate shifts in our environment, and guide us in making informed decisions that are beneficial to fulfilling our work in the Diocese. We have utilized strategic plans on a regular basis and the timing is right to engage in this process again.

## Fundraising and Development

As part of our commitment to bolster the financial well-being of our parishes, the Diocese will be recruiting a dedicated Fundraising and Development Specialist. This specialist will collaborate with Families of Parishes to enhance offertory revenue, providing valuable insights, resources, and strategic guidance to empower our communities. There is strong evidence of the effectiveness of this professional support in other dioceses and we will learn from their efforts to make sure that we are successful. The funding for this position will come from the proceeds of an estate that was left to the Diocese. We will be working closely with you to ensure that the outcomes of this work are aligned with the needs of parishes.

Our mission

We strive together toward our shared mission of "being a mission-oriented Church that forms disciples of Jesus." Our unwavering dedication to this mission motivates and guides our actions, ensuring that we work collectively toward the spiritual growth and welfare of our communities. The Holy Spirit will guide us and provide what is needed so that the Church can truly be the body of Christ and bring the people of our Diocese to an encounter and relationship with Jesus.

A key goal that guides our work is Goal VI of the Pastoral Plan for the Diocese, which states:

*Imitating Christ the servant-leader, we will employ and model governance practices at all levels that seek to: meet the needs of God's people, support the Church's mission, ensure appropriate participation in decision-making by the laity, religious and ordained, uphold Gospel stewardship, and promote accountability and transparency.*

In the spirit of this goal, I welcome open communication and active engagement as we continue to embark on living out our mission together. Your insights, suggestions, and partnership are invaluable as we navigate the road ahead. I ask for your prayers so that we may seek God's will above all else.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment and service to the Church and the communities we serve. May our collective efforts give glory to God and form disciples of Jesus.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Jardine". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Andrew" being more prominent than the last name "Jardine".

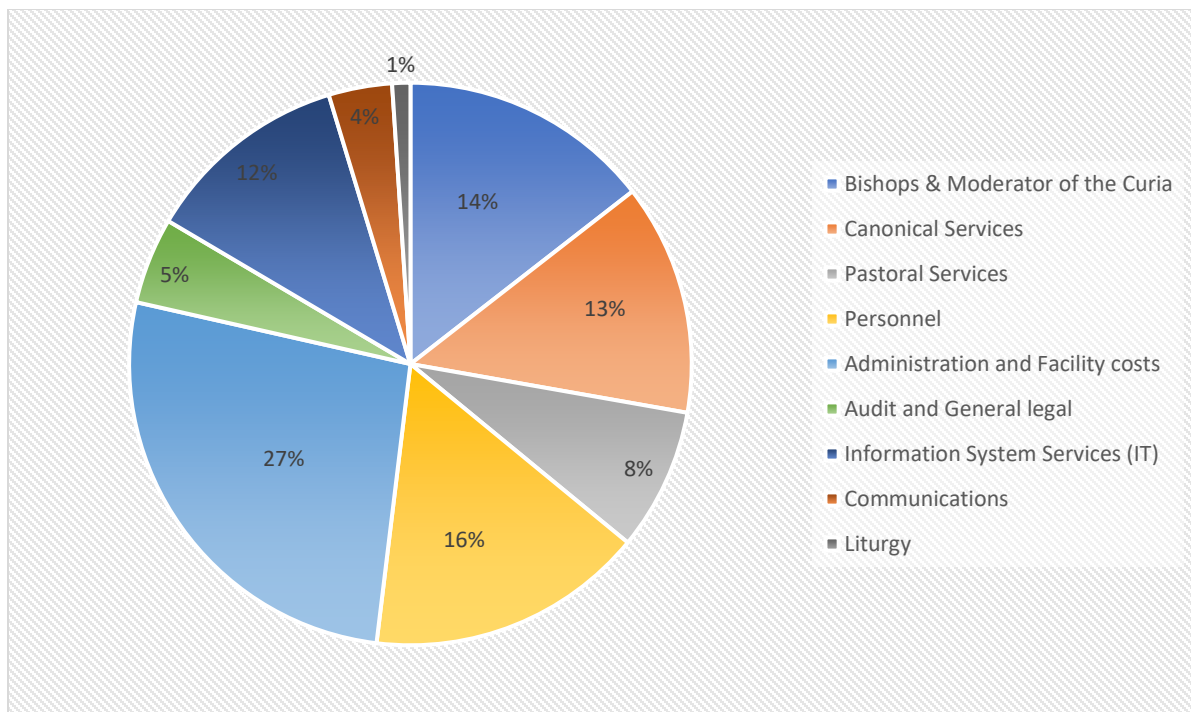
Andrew Jardine  
Chief Financial Officer

### **WHERE THE MONEY GOES**

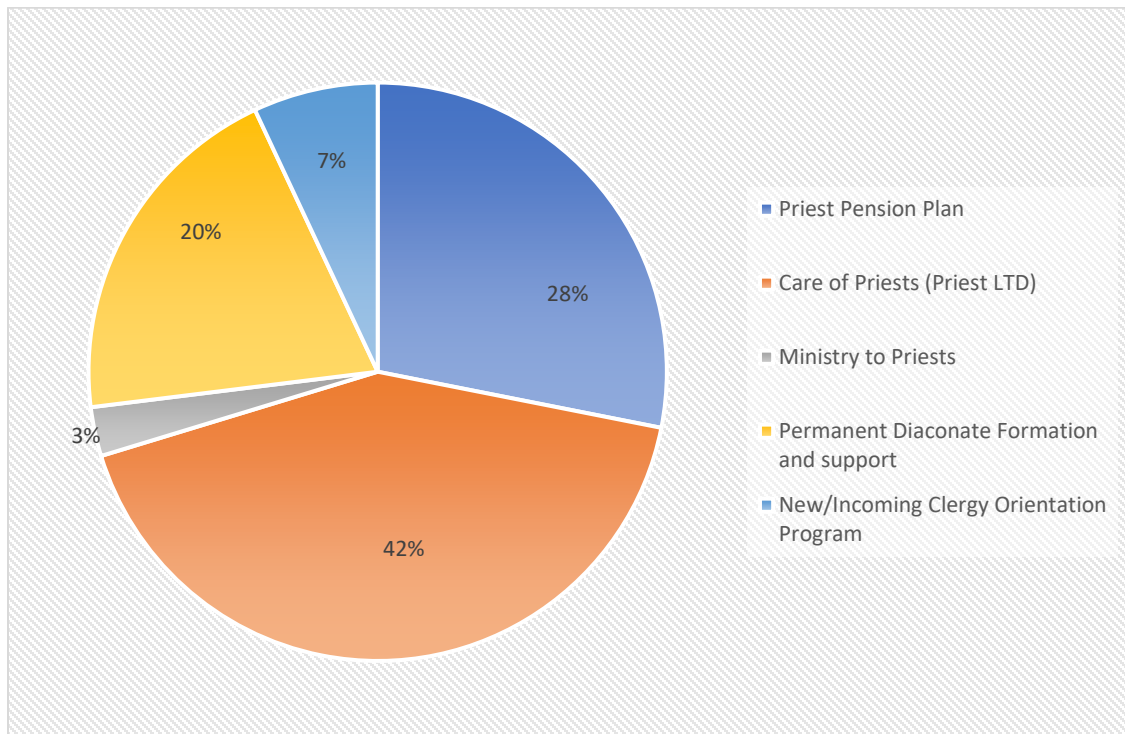
The assessment fee provides funding for the Bishop's ministry in the Diocese. The assessment fee in 2022 totaled \$3,732,239 from parishes. The Catholic cemeteries in the Diocese further contributed \$650,000. Expenses that were not covered by these amounts were paid for with revenue from other sources such as estates and investments. That additional amount of funding required beyond the assessment fees received totaled \$724,025.

The breakdown of the expenses for 2022 is as follows:

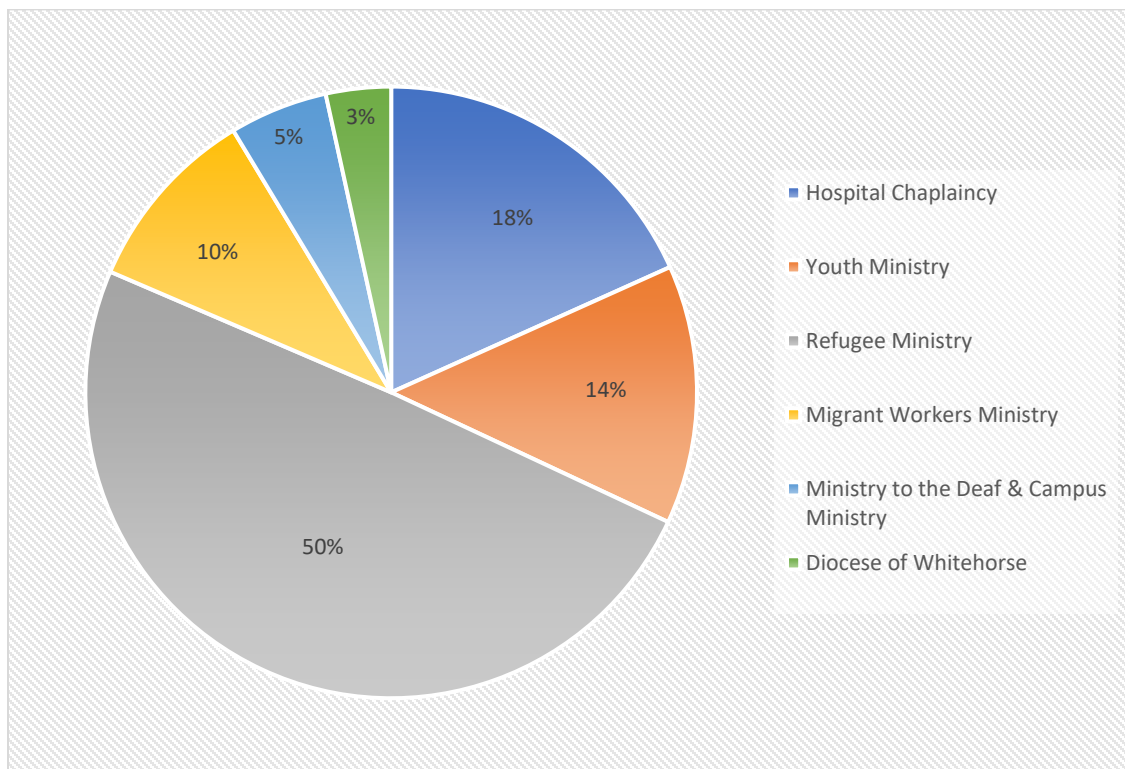
#### **PARISH SUPPORT/ADMINISTRATION (\$3,049,715):**



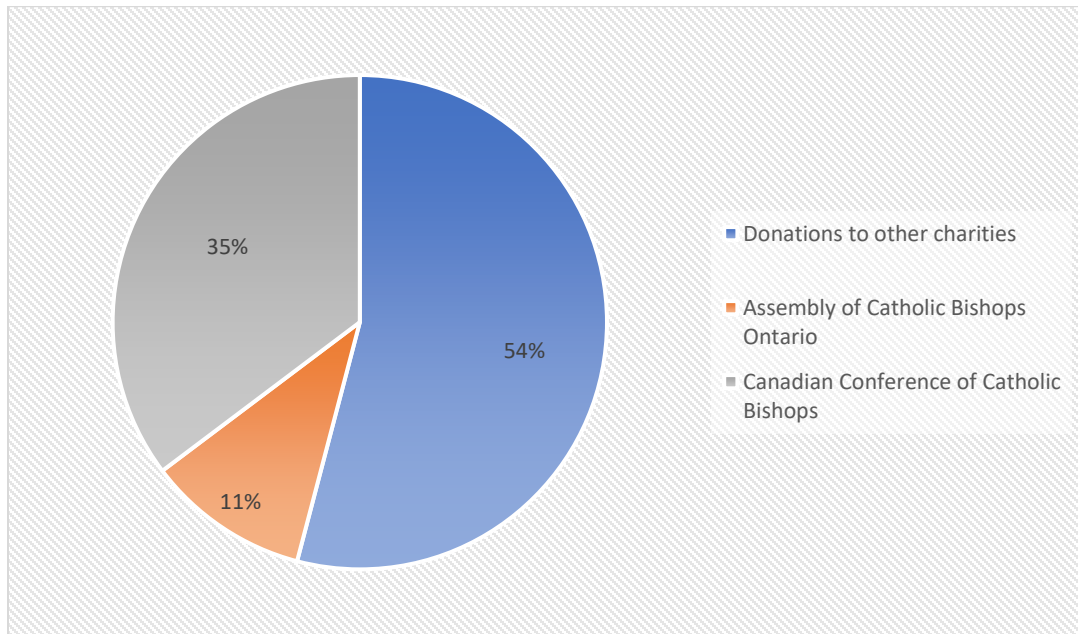
**CLERGY SUPPORT (\$889,384):**



**OUTREACH MINISTRIES (\$628,695):**



**SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND ASSESSMENTS (\$447,388):**



**VOCATIONS AND SEMINARIAN EDUCATION (\$91,082):**

