



The Roman Catholic Diocese of
BATON ROUGE

Diocesan Taxation: Parish Share

Revenue generated from Parish Share – the Diocesan Taxation plan – is used for general and administrative expenses and to support diocesan ministries and apostolates as directed by the Bishop of Baton Rouge.

“10/20 Plan”

The program of taxation upon the parishes of the Diocese of Baton Rouge is known as the “10/20 Plan,” since a parish’s tax in the coming fiscal year is never less than 10% nor more than 20% of its taxable income during the previous fiscal year. Each year the diocesan Finance Office shall inform each parish of its proper tax, computed objectively on the basis of the previous year’s income and to be paid monthly during the following fiscal year.¹ The pastor is responsible for reviewing the assessed parish share upon receipt of the schedule. Any problems, questions, corrections, etc., with the schedule must be addressed with the diocesan Finance Office no later than April 1 prior to the start of the fiscal year in which the tax is due.

Taxes on Capital Funds

Certain capital funds (“building funds”) exceeding a “cap” as specified in the “10/20 Plan” are not included when determining a parish’s tax.² The norms of the diocesan Finance Office are to be followed carefully in identifying and disbursing such capital funds, in order that the appropriate taxes be assessed and paid. Only those funds collected and saved for capital purposes or obtained in collections designated to benefit capital or building funds – always properly reported on the designated income line “Building Fund Collections” on the parochial annual report – are considered for exclusion from taxation in this way.

Reductions in Tax

Exceptions to the *10/20 Plan* are granted solely by the local Ordinary after prior consultation with the diocesan Finance Council. Reduction in a parish’s tax is typically considered when a full and satisfactory program of stewardship and other appropriate plans to raise revenues are in place.³

¹Cf. c. 1263 and the decree of Bishop Ott dated November 7, 1984; the diocesan Finance Office can provide an up-to-date copy of the full “10/20 Plan,” including its various components and specifics regarding calculations of the parish tax.

²Cf. the revision decreed by Bishop Hughes effective July 1, 2000.

³Cf. the ruling of the diocesan Finance Council in the *Clergy Bulletin* 23/41 (1987), p. 75a.