

# Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth

## 2020 Annual Report Highlights



Dear Brother and Sisters in Christ,

This entire past year has been marked by the COVID virus and this pandemic has had an effect on the financial operations of our parish. Thanks to the Federal Government subsidy, most parishes were able to operate relatively well. This also occurred because many parishes moved toward electronic financial support where parishioners were able to make their weekly donations through electronic means, including PAR and electronic transfers.

Our new parishes were established in January 2020 and one of the developments associated with those mergers was the formation of new Parish Finance Councils. These councils included parishioners who had an expertise in accounting, financial planning and the management of properties and have been instrumental in the development of our new parishes. I am grateful for all the time and talent that parishioners have contributed generously so that these councils could work so well. Besides these Finance Councils, the parishes have established Parish Leadership Teams which also assist the pastor on weekly decisions of a pastoral and financial nature.

I began my role as Archbishop of Halifax-Yarmouth in November 2020 and I have been working with a tremendous team of support at the Finance Office. I am extremely grateful for the leadership and financial expertise of John Kennedy. He is assisted by very competent assistants (Cheryl MacDonald, Melissa Lunn and Sydney Mifflin) and I appreciate the unique contributions that each one makes. The assistance of the Diocesan Finance Council and the Investment Committee ensures that we had proficient advice in the oversight of our finances.

May the good Lord continue to bless us as we move forward in this Archdiocese.

Sincerely,

† *Brian Joseph Dunn, Archbishop of Halifax-Yarmouth*



In 2020, the annual youth conference, Steubenville Atlantic was unable to happen because of COVID restrictions but in preparation for the event were two Nights of Worship. In place of the conference itself, youth gathered in their parishes to participate in the virtual conference in Florida.

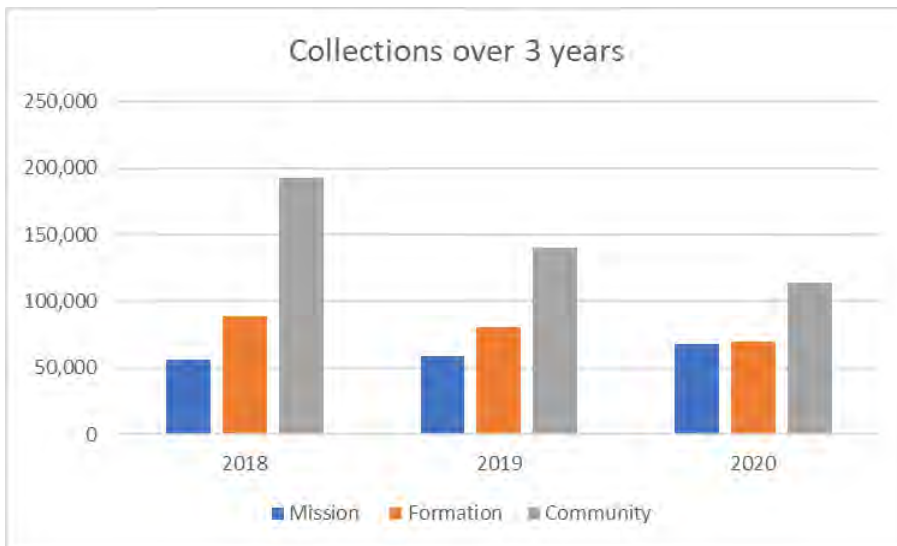
# COLLECTIONS and FUNDRAISING

Thank you to all who contributed to the 2020 Equip the Saints diocesan collections.

The Archdiocese sends 20% of funds raised by the parishes, through Equip the Saints collections, back to the parish to be spent on Mission, Community and Formation initiatives.

Like most parish collections the National Diocesan Collections for Development and Peace and the Holy Lands had a drastic change in 2020 due to COVID lockdowns across the province.

National Diocesan Collections		
	2020	2019
Development & Peace	29,595	62,074
Papal Charities	13,366	28,762
Pro-Life	20,634	20,376
Holy Lands	16,455	72,759
<b>Total</b>	<b>80,050</b>	<b>183,971</b>



The **Mission, Formation and Community collections** in 2020 were used to help offset the cost of Adult Faith Formation, in areas like the EQUIP Program. In-firmed and Retired Priests and Communication expenses are also supported by these collections. Diocesan services like the Marriage Tribunal and Catholic Cemeteries were assisted by these funds as well.



Deacon Rob Elford was ordained to the priesthood on October 17, 2020.



Patrick Salah was ordained to the diaconate on August 15, 2020.

# Transition to new Parishes

As of January 1, 2020, the Archdiocese of Halifax– Yarmouth, went from having 72 parishes and missions to 20 new Parishes. Reorganization of parishes is one of the goals outlined in the 2017 pastoral plan *Equip the Saints*. By embarking on this process we are following through on our commitment to renew the diocese by creating the conditions needed to further the mission of Christ in this time and place. The world many of us remember has changed. Beliefs one shared are now changed or ignored. All of us know someone who has rejected or fallen way from the faith. Still many more people have never had the opportunity to hear the word of God. Reorganization of our Church is a necessary part of renewal. It gives us the opportunity to combine the strengths and talents of our people, invest in our leadership, and reach those we care so deeply about.

In this first year of transition, parishes have consolidated financials while keeping track of individual buildings within their parishes, combined bank accounts, centralized bookkeeping and created new Parish Finance Councils. This transition is ongoing and evolving as we learn new things. It was a difficult year all around with lots of changes but the parishes worked with the diocese to get through together.



On the Feast of the Assumption, at St. Mary's Cathedral, the pilgrims who walked the Way of Stella Maris pilgrimage met with other community members for the celebration of our diocesan feast day.

Hello Everyone,

2020 saw the planning over the past several years, come to realization with our Parish mergers happening January 1, 2020 and becoming Stronger Together. Parish staff and volunteers through leadership teams and committees have done an amazing job over the year. The Diocese provided multi-level support and established financial best practices to help guide Parishes into the future. There is more to do but with the commitment we have seen over the year, there is no doubt the journey will be successful.

COVID descended on us in March 2020. Most Parishes adapted quickly with online giving and streaming. The Federal Government support greatly helped Parishes and Diocese Staff remain on the payroll and engaged to support the mission. As COVID seems to be continuing with peaks and valleys, we are becoming more accustomed to adapting with changing rules. Let's hope and pray for a return to normal.

2020 Financial Statements for RCEC Halifax and RCEC Yarmouth are posted on our website for your review. Overall the Diocese remains financially stable to continue to be able to support Parishes and the mission.

I would like to thank Archbishop Mancini and Archbishop Dunn for their guidance in 2020. As well, I want to acknowledge the support and efforts from the Business Office team, committee members and individuals throughout 2020. Special recognition to Parish bookkeepers for their dedication as they work through the Parish mergers.

2021 will see the continuation of Diocesan support towards Parishes amidst COVID. Stay safe and God Bless You!

*John Kennedy, CPA, CMA, Financial Administrator*



Canonically, the Archdiocese of Halifax – Yarmouth exists. Civilly we are the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Halifax and the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Yarmouth. Click on the links below to access the 2020 Financial Reports for each. If you have any questions, [click here](#).

**[Halifax Financial Report](#)**

**[Yarmouth Financial Report](#)**



### **Want to make a donation?**

We are always looking for assistance to fund the mission of the church. If you would like to donate to any

**Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth**  
**1559 Brunswick Street, Suite 101**  
**Halifax, NS B3J 2G1**

