

Dear Parishioners of St. Andrews Parish,

In the spring of 2024, John Kane made a presentation of our parish's situation, where he gave us a 5 year snapshot of our financial situation between 2018-2023. While our parish was in the black until 2019, we've been in debt year after year from 2019 until the present. To our credit, the yearly collection for 2024 increased by 26%, so I want to thank all of you for your generous response to John's presentation. Also, a few months ago, we got the school board to agree to stop charging us \$1000 a month in rent for our use of the gym every weekend.

The challenge we currently face is to pay the Archdiocese \$68,000 (this includes the \$58,000 in backtaxes and a \$10,000 loan that my predecessor, Fr. Frank Brewer, needed to for meeting staff payroll obligations two years ago). I notified Archbishop Damphousse, Richard Pommerville (CAO of the Archdiocese) and France Hotte (CFO of the Archdiocese) of our situation in the middle of December.

You may be asking yourself why we've not been able to make our monthly payments to the Archdiocese. As with all parishes, the only source of revenue we have are the parishioners, and we currently have only 1/3 the parish population that we once had a few years ago (a significant drop). Over the last several years, our parish has faced many challenges, such as the many starts and stops regarding land purchases for a future parish, the closure of St. Joseph High School and the near total shutdown of our parish during the COVID pandemic between 2020-3, and a local economy that has been adversely affected by global events. Since the reopening of the gym, the number of returning parishioners have not matched our pre-pandemic numbers. To put it in simple terms, our money we take in are less than our bills.

Robella Foliet (our parish accountant), has provided me with the latest figures of our monthly donations and our average monthly operational expenses for St. Andrew's parish:

Average monthly income is	\$11,000
Average Monthly Expenses:	<u>-\$11,915</u>
<b>Monthly shortfall</b>	<b>-\$915</b>

This total does not factor in the 13% Diocesan Admin Tax from the total income generated by the Parish, regardless of its positive or negative results.

The parish rectory on Taradale was purchased 20 years ago, but has received very little attention over the years. The good news is that we received a very generous (anonymous) donation from a parishioner, who paid the entire cost of the shingle replacement for the roof. Other areas that are showing wear and tear are the window seals and grouting, as well as the garage door mechanism.

I spoke with Mark Bruce and John Kane (of our parish Finance Council) this week, and I will be presenting the needs of our parish to our Catholic school councils in Barrhaven, to see if we can increase the number of parishioners at St. Andrew, and meet our financial obligations.

If your children are attending any of our feeder schools, we need your help to keep our parish open. This is especially true if your children are preparing for their sacraments of initiation at St. Andrews parish.

I look forward to hearing from you, but our focus needs to be about solutions. The problem we're facing is nothing new. What's new is the critical amount of debt that our parish has accrued over the last several years, and we need to solve it.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rev. Pierre Champoux". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and "C".

Fr. Pierre Champoux, Pastor

January 12, 2025