



Financial Transparency

Where can I access information on how the church uses the funds provided by parishioners?

The diocesan website provides financial statements for all of its different entities. To access the information, please go to the diocesan website: <https://diospringfield.org/financialstatements/>.

Where did the money from the Future of Hope Campaign go?

Thanks to the generosity of 20,000+ parishioners, the diocese collected \$38,034,985 during its last capital campaign 25 years ago. Below is a short summary of the distribution of funds:

Parish Share: \$15,000,000	Catholic School Endowment: \$13,784,985
1999 ACA: \$3,500,000	Social Ministries Endowment: \$2,000,000
Newman Center Endowment: \$1,500,000	Tomorrow's Priest Endowment: \$1,250,000
Lay Ministry Endowment: \$1,000,000	

The Future of Hope campaign and the endowments created have disbursed over \$35 Million dollars in the last twenty-five years to benefit the Catholic Church of western Massachusetts and those in need.

What is the Western Massachusetts Catholic Foundation?

The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Springfield, now known as the Western Massachusetts Catholic Foundation, was established in 1998 as a separate legal entity to oversee capital campaign endowment funds raised in the *Future of Hope* campaign. The foundation's goals were to ensure long-term financial stability for the educational, charitable, and pastoral programs and ministries of the Catholic Church across western Massachusetts.

How do I know the money given to Beacon of Faith will go towards the selected case items?

The diocese is obligated by both canon and civil law to restrict these funds for the stated elements of the campaign. In addition, the funds will go directly to the Western Massachusetts Catholic Foundation. This will provide greater transparency as the money will not be mixed with Diocesan operating accounts.

Can Beacon of Faith funds be used in case of lawsuits or bankruptcy?

The Beacon of Faith funds are designated funds and cannot be used for anything outside the campaign case, including lawsuits or payment of debt.

What exactly is an endowment fund and what are the reasons for using endowment funding?

An endowment fund is an investment fund that requires the principal to remain intact and money/interest earned from investing the principal to be used for a specific purpose. The diocese

recognizes that some projects are ongoing and will need attention for years to come. Considering this, endowment funds have been established to safeguard the monies that are raised.

Will I be able to track these endowments once they are fully funded?

Yes, you will be able to track these endowments. Information regarding the endowment, including allocation of proceeds and changes to the principle over time, will be posted on the diocesan website. There will be a separate audit report and additional details since the endowments will be held in a foundation.

Who oversees investing the endowment monies?

The diocesan Investment Advisory Committee will advise the Bishop on how best to invest all monies placed into endowments. This committee is a mix of diocesan employees, priests, and lay volunteers. Currently, the IAC employs professional financial advisors who help manage the funds, make recommendations as to investments, and assist in ensuring that the investment portfolio is balanced according to the diocesan investment policy. The fund advisors and IAC follow the strict investment guidelines of the Diocese.

How much will be taken out of the endowment each year?

Currently, 4% will be withdrawn from the endowments each year, which is a widely accepted money management practice. The council expects that over time and through a combination of investments in stocks and bonds, the return on the endowments will be greater than 4%, and the additional monies earned above 4% will be used to grow the principle of the endowment. The Western Massachusetts Catholic Foundation annually reviews and determines the appropriate percentage rate to withdraw from the endowed funds.

When will my parish receive its portion of funds?

Parishes will receive their share of the money quarterly throughout the redemption of the campaign. Funds will be transferred into a Chancery Savings account created by the central administrative office. Parishes can withdraw those funds whenever they are needed. Parishes currently conducting the campaign will receive their first distribution in October of 2024. This will be based on funds received from the parish and not based on pledges yet to be paid.

How do our consultants, Guidance in Giving, receive payment for the management of the campaign?

As a member of the International Catholic Stewardship Council, the firm bases the professional fee on the number of weeks of service provided to the Diocese of Springfield, not a percentage of the amount raised.