

PARISH FINANCES REPORT FOR 2018

After a 1-year decline, total parish income again increases over a five-year period

After a one-year decrease, in 2018, total parish income again increased. The average total income over the five-year period was \$232,372,235. Expenses have averaged \$223,873,945. In all five years, as an aggregate, parishes generated more revenue than was spent, averaging a gain of \$8,498,290. Spread among the 196 parishes, the average gain per parish is \$44,032.

Below are some key insights from the Report.

-) Total parish income increased by **\$1,257,297 or +1%** from 2017 to 2018.
-) Expenses increased by a small amount in the five-year period to **\$220,451,782 or +1%** from 2017 to 2018.
-) The average net gain of **\$10,215,093 or -1%** for 2018 from 2017 is a little smaller than 2017, but still the third year in a row of more than \$10,000 in the five-year period. The gain in 2016 was the highest.
-) **All deaneries** had incomes which exceeded expenses.
-) Although all deaneries had a net gain, **Fond du Lac/Sheboygan, Milwaukee Southeast** and **Waukesha West** deaneries had a decrease in income from the previous year.
-) The **Milwaukee Southeast** deanery parishes have the highest income level in the diocese at **\$41,316,094**, but the income level was less than the previous year. The **Walworth** deanery parishes have the highest increase in income from the previous year of **\$3,045,604**.
-) With the split of the Kenosha-Racine deanery into two separate deaneries, the Kenosha deanery parishes have the lowest income level in the diocese at **\$7,510,775**.

Considering the persistent declines in Mass attendance (although the decline wasn't as sharp in 2018) and membership in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, it is surprising that, for the most part, parish incomes continue to increase. Even though parishes are managing their finances by reducing expenses, declining revenues have a negative long-term impact on staffing, ministries, and facilities. Let's hope that the upcoming 5-year Synod Anniversary Gathering in 2020 acts as an impetus to revitalize parish membership and Mass attendance.