

ACCOUNTABILITY, TRANSPARENCY, AND COMMUNICATION



We continue to provide greater transparency into the activities of the Archdiocese, and to foster clear, effective, and open communications both inside and outside the organization. This includes the ongoing auditing, monitoring, and stewardship of Archdiocesan and parish financial systems and property management. These actions are imperative to regain and maintain the trust of our parishioners, our clergy, and the public.

What We Have Accomplished:

- The Archdiocese conducted a review of its communications vehicles, technology, and policies — and is revamping both internal and external communications.
 - We engaged leading outside experts to help us conduct this review and to effectively support and implement our steps forward. This included a restructuring of social media, website, bulletins, newspapers, magazine, and other communications tools.
- Following a long-standing Archdiocesan tradition, we shared a summary of the financial condition of the Chancery office by posting a copy of our complete financial report for the last fiscal year on our website, www.rcan.org.
 - Grant Thornton, L.L.P., a nationally renowned, independent accounting firm, audited these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the U.S. Grant Thornton issued an unqualified or “clean” opinion that declares the financial information it examined presents “fairly, in all material aspects, the financial position” of the Chancery Office.
- We continue to respond to the faithful’s need for increased transparency, careful stewardship, and accountability for their contributions of the mission of the Church. The Cardinal’s Statement of Accountability represents an important step in our ongoing efforts to heal the Body of Christ and restates our commitment to the faithful and how these funds are used to serve the needs of God’s people throughout the Archdiocese of Newark.
 - We continue to emphasize that funds from the Annual Appeal or We Are Living Stones Capital Campaign are solely for the purposes originally intended — to proclaim the Good News, pass on the faith to the next generation, and care for the poor and marginalized — and not for any other purpose. Information regarding these campaigns is available on our website, www.rcan.org.



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Our Road Ahead:

- We are developing more proactive social media and online communications to raise awareness about the life of faith in our local communities and in the Archdiocese, and to promote initiatives in education and spirituality.
- We continue to engage the talents and skills of the faithful of the Archdiocese, through the Archdiocesan Office of Communications, in developing new platforms to transmit the Gospel in the most effective ways possible.
- Beyond the functional elements of communications tools, we are expanding and improving the ways in which we engage directly with the lay faithful and others.
- We continue our commitment to be forthcoming and transparent through more communications from the Cardinal and other Archdiocesan leaders to the laity.
- We are creating additional processes to engage in more open, direct, and two-way communications with the parishes — so that we are acting as one diocese, in service of Christ's mission.

Reflection Questions:

1. Do you believe that your parish and the Archdiocese has strengthened its commitment to transparency, accountability, and communication?
Why or why not?
2. What steps must still be taken to strengthen and affirm our commitment to this important pillar of our pastoral vision?
3. What actions can you take — as a member of the Church — to support this commitment?

