



Archdiocese of Boston Adopts fiscal year 2003 Budget

Budget reflects efforts to move towards a balanced budget in challenging economic conditions

(June 27, 2002) Boston, Massachusetts - The Archdiocese of Boston has adopted a fiscal year 2003 budget, which includes reductions and cost cutting measures aimed to move towards a balanced central fund budget. The fiscal year 2003 central fund budget represents an average reduction of a third of our net central fund support. "We are richly blessed by the many faithful who work tirelessly to achieve the mission of the Church in this Archdiocese and minister to all," said His Eminence Bernard Cardinal Law. "I hope for understanding and support as we make necessary and painful budget adjustments."

Economic challenges have increased for the Archdiocese of Boston due to the declining economy of the past two years, the national tragedy experienced on September 11th, and the resulting stock market decline and other financial repercussions. Moreover, the Archdiocese of Boston is now conducting a 300 million dollar Promise for Tomorrow Campaign. This campaign shifted the number of parishes now participating in the Cardinal's Appeal, which is a revenue source for the central fund. In addition, the Cardinal's Appeal has been impacted by the current crisis due to the sexual abuse of minors by some members of the clergy.

"We are committed to continuing the mission and good works of the Church but at the same time we have a responsibility and obligation to live within our means," said Chancellor David Smith.

Since November 2001, Cabinet Secretaries for the Archdiocese of Boston have been working to reduce their operating costs over the next two years by thirty percent. Accordingly, the Archdiocese of Boston reduced discretionary spending, looked to areas to consolidate and streamline the delivery of services, offered programs for voluntary early retirement, froze salaries, reduced payroll costs by attrition, sought to fill positions with internal candidates when possible, and had a reduction in staff.

Today, fifteen employees of the Chancery were informed that their positions were eliminated. Consistent with past efforts, the Archdiocese of Boston will attempt to offer employment opportunities within the organization in other areas, when possible, and will provide departing employees financial assistance through the Transition Assistance Program and other outplacement services such as career guidance, resume preparation, interviewing techniques, and access to a job availability database.

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